southern voice

Homo for the holidays

A guide to bountiful options for the holiday season, with a gay twist.

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Gay rights take center court

U.S. Supreme Court takes up Texas sodomy case that could overturn Georgia's anti-gay Bowers vs. Hardwick.

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Family law revisions by prestigious group represent 'very significant turning point for the recognition of the families of same-sex couples.'

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(Photo of U.S Supreme Court by AP)

RIGHT TURN?: Ralph Reed's role in state politics leaves some gay pundits concerned. Page 3

WORKPLACE BIAS: Cracker Barrel retreats from anti-gay stand on employment protection. Page 15

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local news

Christian Coalition touts access to Perdue

Conservative group praises governor-elect's commitment to 'pro-family agenda'

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The head of the Georgia Christian Coalition sent an e-mail to members this week touting her invitation to meet with advisers to Gov.-elect Sonny Perdue, who will take office in January as Georgia's first Republican governor since 1872.

"I received a call from the governor's transition team last week requesting a meeting with me to discuss and plan how to best implement a pro-family agenda over the course of his administration," wrote Sadie Fields, chair of the state Christian Coalition.

News of Perdue's apparent outreach to the conservative group — coupled with recent anti-gay campaigning by Ralph Reed, chair of the Georgia Republican Party — leaves gay rights advocates worried about the direction state politics will take under the leadership of Republicans, who now control the governor's mansion and the state Senate.

"[The Republican Party is] going in the same direction they always do, which is to the extreme right," said state Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator. "They've come out of the gate swinging at the gay community."

In the e-mail that doubled as a Christian Coalition fund-raising appeal, Fields seemed to confirm that Republican election success would translate into unprecedented access for gay rights opponents to the governor's office.

"The governor-elect is very in tune with our values, and wants to work with us on accomplishing our goals," she said.

While the Christian Coalition says it has been invited to confer with Perdue, gay Republicans said they have not.

Marc Yeager, president of the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans, declined comment on Fields' e-mail, but said Log Cabin members are "very encouraged" by Perdue.

"We hope the same desire that led him to be the only candidate to meet with gays prior to the election will still be there after the election," Yeager said.

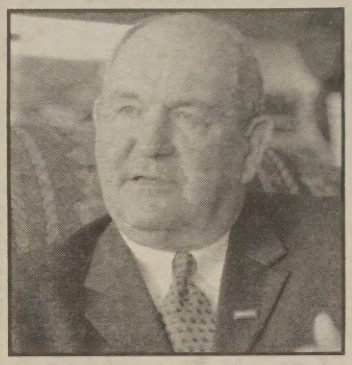
A spokesperson for Perdue said no meeting with the Christian Coalition, nor any other constituency group, is currently scheduled.

Such meetings won't be set "until after our budget review process, probably around Dec. 20," said state Sen. Bill Stephens (R-Canton), a Senate floor leader.

"But we're open to meeting with any constituency group who has an interest or concern about legislation," Stephens said.

Legislative session could target gays

Field's e-mail included a list of nine "pro-familiy" priorities for the Christian Coalition during the next legislative session, at least two of which directly deal with gay issues.



The head of Georgia's Christian Coalition, Sadie Fields, says she is invited to meet with the transition team of Gov.-elect **Sonny Perdue** to discuss a 'pro-family' agenda. (Photo by AP)

Along with measures like restricting abortion and eliminating the capital gains tax, Field specifically cited the "Defense of Scouting" bill and a bill requiring "parental notification of new clubs forming on school campus" as "legislative priorities."

Gay lobbyists and their allies in the state General Assembly vigorously fought both those bills when they were introduced in the last legislative session, and neither won passage.

The Defense of Scouting measure would ensure equal access to state facilities for Boy Scout troops, a move designed to prevent efforts in Georgia to protest the Boy Scouts' ban on gay members.

While a small number of local jurisdictions around the country have banned the Scouts, gay activists here say no Georgia school has denied any troop meeting. Because federal legislation already ensures equal access, the proposal is a "slap in the face" to gays, some observers have said.

Another bill backed by the Christian Coalition in the last legislative session would have required parental permission for students to participate in school clubs. The measure was proposed due to concerns about the handful of gay-straight alliances now meeting in public schools, Christian Coalition leaders said then.

Neither Fields nor other Christian Coalition representatives responded to interview requests.

Perdue representatives said they are aware of the coalition's advocacy of the bills.

But "I have not talked about them with the governor-elect yet," Stephens said.

Perdue did support a Defense of Scouting bill as a former Georgia state senator, Stephens said.

Yeager, the Log Cabin president, wouldn't say whether the group would lobby Perdue against the legislation.

Log Cabin is "talking to Georgia GOP leadership about our concerns about this legislation, and we obviously hope it doesn't make it out to the floor," he said.

At the same time, another conservative group is pushing the idea of "charitable choice" in Georgia.

The Georgia Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force — a loose-knit group of religious charities — is lobbying to remove the constitutional barrier prohibiting religious organizations from receiving state money.

"We know many of these religious groups discriminate against gays and others," Drenner said. "Why should they get state money to do it?"

But task force members said the argument is overstated.

"No group can discriminate against beneficiaries," Vernadette Ramirez Broyles said. "We're only talking about employment, and that's a much, much smaller picture."

Requiring some religious charities to hire gays "would be asking them to go against their identity," said Broyles, who ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for Secretary of State this year.

Perdue supports "charitable choice," including it in his platform "A New Georgia," leaving gay activists worried.

"All the pre-filed bills and the push for charitable choice is a warm-up," said gay lobbyist Larry Pellegrini, director of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit. "Some will happen this year, but most won't."

If any combination of the charitable choice, defense of scouting or parental permission bills are successful, "it's going to get really, really ugly for gays this year," said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide nonpartisan advocacy group.

More anti-gay tactics from Ralph Reed

While Perdue was the only gubernatorial candidate to meet with a gay group during this election, Ralph Reed, chair of the state Republican Party, has been no friend to gays.

As leader of the national Christian Coalition from 1988 until the mid-1990s, Reed's tenure was epitomized by the "No Queers" buttons worn by many followers.

After returning to Georgia, Reed started a private political consulting company called Century Strategies that orchestrated the vitriolic anti-gay 1998 campaign of Mitch Skandalakis, who lost his bid for lieutenant governor to Democrat Mark Taylor after accusing Taylor of pandering to gay supporters.

While such blatant anti-gay attacks weren't part of Republican campaigns in Georgia this year, Reed voiced an automated phone message sent to Florida voters designed to gain support for incumbent Gov. Jeb Bush, a Republican, running against Bill McBride, a Democrat.

The calls, which Bush denounced and said he did not authorize, featured Reed's voice saying Bush was the only candidate to support the "traditional" family and claiming McBride supported gay marriage.

Reed did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Log Cabin's Yeager declined comment on the calls.

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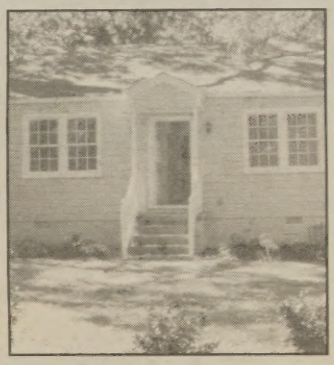


TROUBLED HOME: Georgia's only shelter for otherwise-homeless gay youth still needs to raise $140,000 by Dec. 31 or face closing. Page 4

BAR HEARING: Backstreet attorney **Jackson Cook** on Tuesday asked the Atlanta License Review Board to postpone its decision on the bar keeping its liquor license. Page 4

GAY HOCKEY: After a rocky first season, Gay Hockey Atlanta returns to the rink much improved to take on a sport dominated by 'Caucasian hetero males.' Page 22

local news

Backstreet gets two-week reprieve

Three gay bars have faced alcohol license reviews in last four months

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The Dec. 3 meeting of Atlanta's License Review Board proved anti-climactic for some gay club-goers, but gave a small measure of relief to the owners of Backstreet after the death of the family's patriarch.

"This was all relatively routine," said Jackson Cook, Backstreet's attorney. "I made a formal motion to continue it and they were kind enough to do that."

Carmine Vara, who owned Backstreet jointly with his wife and three adult children Vicki, Henry, and John, died last week, and the family asked for time to make funeral arrangements, Cook said.

Backstreet, a 24-hour private club located at 845 Peachtree St., now faces a Dec. 17 hearing in which the License Review Board, a citizen panel appointed by the mayor, could recommend fining the club or revoking its license to sell alcohol.

According to Cook, the club faces three counts of alleged drug sales — two sales of cocaine, less that 1 gram each, to customers, and one sale of MDMP, better known as "whip-its," to an undercover officer.

"I think it's important to stress that these actions were not violations by the club, but were simply on the club's property," Cook said.

The hearing came just weeks after the license panel's decision to revoke the liquor license of another bar popular with gay patrons.

On Oct. 29, the board voted to revoke the alcohol license of the Metro Video Bar, a gay club located at 1080 Peachtree St., after Atlanta Police investigators charged the club with eight counts dealing with drug sales and inappropriate sexual activity on the club's premises.

The recommendation sits on the desk of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, who has 90 days to issue a final decision, giving her through the end of January to make a decision.

Metro owner Don Hunnewell has asked the Atlanta Police Department to investigate what he calls the discrimination and selective enforcement by the Licensing & Permits Unit, but said that he has not received a response.

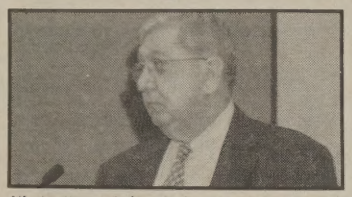
Atlanta Police spokesperson Sgt. John Quigley and Lt. P.M. Williamson, director of the unit, did not respond to interview requests by press time.

The License Review Board also voted earlier this year to suspend the alcohol license of Colours, a gay bar at 1490 Piedmont Road, for 45 days, according to Gary Cox, Atlanta's deputy chief operating officer.

Colours owner Jerry Smithey confirmed the club was cited for noise violations and received a 45-day suspension recommendation from the license panel, which was upheld by Franklin on Aug. 1.

The bar filed an appeal and won an injunction in Fulton County Superior Court, allowing the club to stay open during the court fight.

"But in legal fees and just the couple of days we were closed waiting for the injunction, I've already lost $40,000," Smithey said. "If I have to serve a 45-day suspension, it will probably kill my business."



Atlanta attorney **Jackson Cook** said Backstreet 'is ready' for a Dec. 17 hearing on whether the club allowed drug sales on its property. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Smithey said he has "no doubt" the city "is coming after gay bars."

Cox, the mayor's highest-ranking openly gay employee, said the city has tried to work out the suspension with Colours. Franklin has encouraged the club to apply for a license as a nightclub, not a restaurant, Cox said.

Numerous bars in Atlanta apply for liquor licenses as restaurants rather than nightclubs to be able to serve alcohol on Sundays.

Having three gay bars targeted for alcohol license revocation or suspension has bar owners concerned.

"I don't think there's any doubt that homophobia is motivating where Atlanta police officers choose to inspect," Hunnewell said this week.

License panel members denied the charge.

"That's absolutely incorrect," said Joy Barnes, a board member who is gay.

Jeffrey Norman, an assistant city attorney staffing the Dec. 3 panel meeting, said he is not aware of any pending license revocation efforts against any majority heterosexual nightclubs in Atlanta.

Only one primarily heterosexual bar — Park Bench at 260 East Paces Ferry Road in Buckhead — has recently had its license suspended, according to Cox.

Gay youth shelter struggles over funds

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

With time quickly running out, the CHRIS Rainbow Home has raised just 30 percent of the funds necessary to avoid closing the state's only shelter for gay youth, staff members said.

"The gay community has responded tremendously, both financially and with volunteering and donations," said Kyle Anderson, program director for the home. "It's really touching. But there's an awfully long way still to go."

To date, the Rainbow Home has raised $60,000 of its $200,000 goal, officials said.

Since its January 2000 opening, the home has been funded largely by a $180,000 annual grant from the federal Department of Health & Human Services. Staff members learned in October that the grant would not be renewed, leaving them to raise a large portion of their 2003 operating budget by year's end.

Gay business and entertainment venues have lined up to hold fund-raisers to help the home, Anderson said.

"Without them, we will not only be homeless, we would be hopeless," said an 18-year old resident who asked not to be identified.

New fund-raisers are being planned, said Edward Gray, fundraising chair.

But "misunderstanding" about a fundraiser at the Metro almost initiated a split between the youth shelter and the Bar Owners Association, according to Hal Gresham, one of the hosts.

CHRIS representatives declined to mention fundraisers at the Metro on the company's Web site, said Gresham, also known as entertainer Peg, an oversight that "almost made us cancel some events."

When Gresham asked shelter officials about the matter, he said the facility wanted to distance itself from recent media coverage of the Metro, which currently has its liquor license under review by the City of Atlanta over allegations of drug use at the bar.

The Metro is contesting the effort to revoke its liquor license and has pledged to appeal the matter in court.

"Needless to say some of us were offended," Gresham said. "But we sat down and talked with CHRIS, and it turned out it was only the opinion of one board member, not the organization, so we let it go."

Gray, who participated in the discussions with the Metro and Gresham, said only events officially sponsored by the home were on its Web site.

If the Rainbow Home does not raise the necessary funds and closes, donations made to CHRIS that have been earmarked for the Rainbow Home could either be returned to donors or used for the general CHRIS fund, if the donor gives permission, leaders said.

MORE INFO

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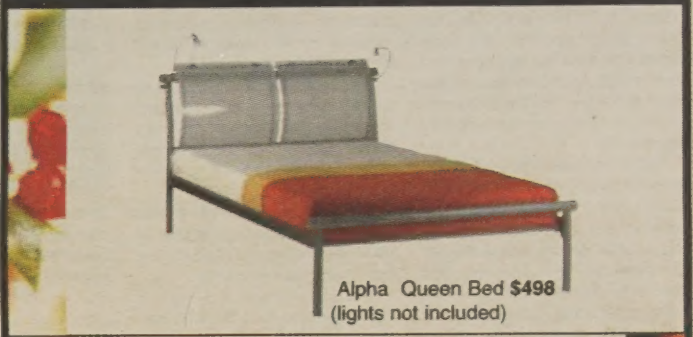

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national news

Supreme Court to review Texas sodomy law

Appeal calls for overturn of Georgia's Bowers vs. Hardwick

By PENNY WEAVER

WASHINGTON — In what may amount to a landmark case for gay rights, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed this week to hear a case challenging the constitutionality of Texas' "homosexual conduct" law that criminalizes same-sex sodomy.

"This has been a long process," said Houston attorney Mitchell Katine, one of the attorneys representing the defendants in the appeal. "We are very pleased that the Supreme Court has indicated that they believe that there are some constitutional issues that at least need to be examined.

"The ultimate result will affect the entire nation," he added. "By them taking the case, we feel that is a good sign."

The New York-based Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund is also representing the two gay Houston men who were convicted under the Texas statute.

"It's a big opportunity for us and for gay men and lesbians not only in Texas but in many other parts of the country. What it signals is at least four of the justices have seen that there are serious constitutional problems with the Texas law," said Ruth E. Harlow, Lambda legal director, citing the minimum number of votes required for the court to accept the appeal.

"We're thrilled they've given us the opportunity to make our case, and we think we have two very strong arguments that should result in the law being overturned," she added.

The court is expected to hear arguments in the case, Lawrence vs. Texas, this spring and hand down a decision during the summer.

The case against the two gay men originated in a Houston bedroom in 1998 when sheriff's deputies, responding to a false report of an armed intruder, entered John Lawrence's apartment and found Lawrence and Tyrone Garner having anal sex.

Both were arrested and jailed overnight. Both pleaded no contest to the Class C misdemeanor and paid a $200 fine, plus court costs.

Tyrone Garner (left) and **John Lawrence** (center) were arrested in Lawrence's Houston home in 1998 after a false report led police to their bedroom, where they discovered the two men engaging in anal sex. Now they are challenging the constitutionality of Texas' 'homosexual conduct' law. (Photo by David J. Phillip/AP)

The Texas law under which the two were charged bans intimate relations, including oral and anal sex, between consenting adults of the same sex. Texas earlier had a sodomy law that applied to everyone, but decriminalized such activities by opposite-sex partners in 1974.

Lawrence and Garner appealed their convictions to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which refused in April to consider the matter. In mid-July, attorneys filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court, and activists hope this may present an opportunity for the court to overturn its most notorious anti-gay precedent.

In that case, Bowers vs. Hardwick, a 5-4 majority upheld Georgia's sodomy law, which applied to all adults, concluding it was "facetious at best" to argue that the Constitution protected a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sex. The Georgia Supreme Court struck down the law in 1998, citing the right to privacy under that state constitution.

Lambda Legal charges that the Texas law — known as the "homosexual conduct" law — violates lesbian and gay Texans' constitutional rights to privacy and equal protection. The gay rights group hopes the case will test the constitutionality of similar laws in 13 states, four of which have sodomy laws that apply only to gays and do not outlaw oral or anal sex between heterosexuals.

"This is probably the most important legal case to gay and lesbian people in the last 20 years, since Bowers vs. Hardwick," Katine said. "It's kind of history happening right now in our lifetime. What the court does with this case will affect generations to come."

Please see **SODOMY, Page 8**

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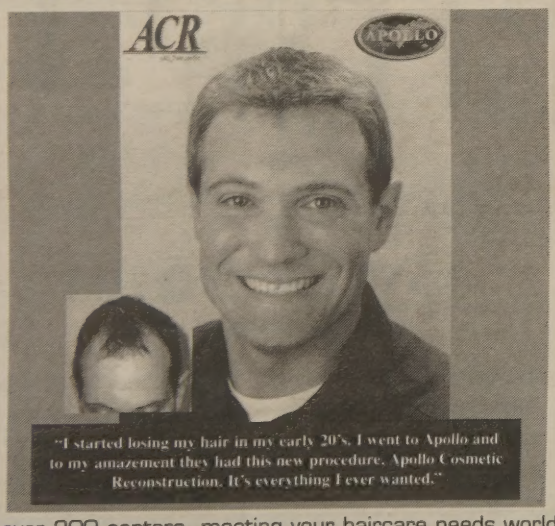
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national news

Include gays in family law, influential group says

American Law Institute says same-sex couples deserve rights in break-ups

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Professors **Ira Mark Ellman, Grace Blumberg and Katherine Bartlett** authored a controversial report from the American Law Institute that recommends legal recognition for gay partners and parents.

PHILADELPHIA — Vast revisions in family law proposed by the prestigious American Law Institute would treat gay domestic partners on par with heterosexual spouses on issues including property division and child custody.

The "Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution," an almost 1,200-page tome more than a decade in the making, suggests ways courts should deal with a variety of issues that arise when couples break-up, including division of assets, alimony-like "compensatory payments," child custody, visitation and support.

Instead of focusing only on marriages that end in divorce, the recommendations also include suggestions of how the legal system should address unmarried heterosexual and gay partners.

"Instead of saying what the law is, we are saying what we think the law ought to be," said Michael Greenwald, ALI deputy director.

Established in 1923, the American Law Institute is made up of judges, lawyers and legal scholars known as the "best and brightest" in their field. Other proposed legal reforms from the group, such as the 1955 Model Penal Code, have had enormous influence in legislatures and courts around the nation.

"The American Law Institute is a very important legal voice in the country, so this is a very significant turning point for the recognition of the families of same-sex couples," said David Buckel, a senior staff attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

"The report signals the inevitability that one day our families will have full equality," Buckel said.

But that possibility has conservative legal scholars and activists riled.

The official family law principles were released in May, but began drawing fire from critics even in draft form. Scrutiny intensified after the New York Times published a Nov. 30 story on the recommendations.

Is family law "the next target of the anti-family movement?" asked a missive from the Agape Press posted Dec. 2 on the Web site of the American Family Association, an aanti-gay group.

Mormon-affiliated Brigham Young University hosted a symposium in February 2001 debating whether the ALI's recommendations would "deconstruct families."

Spurred by the "radicalism of the ALI," the family law principles "manifest significant hostility against the traditional family and against relationships established by kinship, marriage and marital adoption," argued BYU law professor Lynn D. Wardle, convenor of the symposium.

A 'moral principle'

The family dissolution principles are not the first time the American Law Institute has advocated legal revisions friendly to gays.

More than four decades ago, the group's influential Model Penal Code advocated that "all forms of sexual activity between consenting adults be legalized," meaning laws prohibiting consensual sodomy should be dropped.

Still, when the ALI set out to recommend principles governing family dissolution, the project was originally limited to divorce, according to Grace Blumberg, a law professor at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Blumberg, Arizona State University law professor Ira Mark Ellman and Duke University Law School Dean Katharine Bartlett served as ALI's three "reporters" on the project.

"A number of judges said to us that many of their litigants were unmarried couples, and could we help them out because the law is very amorphous," Blumberg said. "We said only if we can do it for gay and lesbian couples as well as unmarried heterosexuals."

The decision to include gay couples was based on both principle and practicality, the authors said.

"It was a moral principle based on a notion of equality," Blumberg said. "If anything, the case for gay and lesbian couples is more compelling because they have no capability for getting married."

Ellman, chief reporter for the project, agreed.

"I didn't have any intention in doing that chapter [on unmarried couples] unless it included same-sex couples," he said.

Defining domestic partners

The ALI's chapter on domestic partnership acknowledges the vast changes in American attitudes toward marriage in the last four decades, including a rise in unmarried couples.

These couples, according to the ALI, deserve to be treated similarly to married couples for purposes of property division and other financial matters when they break up.

The principles define domestic partners as "two persons of the same or opposite sex, not married to one another, who for a significant period of time share a primary residence and a life together as a couple."

The authors then recommend that courts deal with domestic partners in a manner almost exactly opposite to how they are usually treated now, bringing them in line with heterosexual marriages.

Currently, courts assume married partners have mutual financial obligations to each other, unless they have a specific contract — such as a prenuptial agreement — spelling out a different arrangement.

In contrast, the ALI says courts have tended to take the opposite approach to domestic partners, examining their cases through the framework of contract law rather than family law.

Under those provisions, the domestic partners are assumed to have no obligations to each other unless they have entered into some sort of contract, written or oral, spelling out their responsibilities.

The ALI recommendations turn that paradigm on its head, suggesting that — like spouses — domestic partners should be presumed to have obligations unless they specifically agree otherwise.

"We don't really care if people sign a piece of paper," said Blumberg, who co-authored the domestic partner chapter with Ellman. "It is the relationship that is important in terms of establishing obligations."

But Wardle argued at the Brigham Young symposium that the ALI recommendations "create a radically new legal status that is virtually unprecedented in American family law.

"This seems rather like using a guillotine to get rid of a severe case of dandruff," he said. "There is no need to lose one's head to solve the problem."

Recognizing gay parents

While the ALI's recommendations on domestic partnerships have sparked the most controversy, the organization also makes strong arguments for the rights and responsibilities of gay parents when their relationships end.

Gay rights organizations report little consistency in recognition of gay families around the country.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, some 23 states have "good" records on adoptions by gay individuals, while 12 are "bad" and 16 are "mixed." The "good" states drop to 11 on adoptions by gay couples, with 40 that are "bad."

When it comes to second-parent adoption, a legal procedure where a gay parent adopts their partner's biological or adopted child, only nine states offer "good" records, with 23 bad and 19 mixed.

"Any of our families could go on a vacation to see the U.S.A., and as they drive across each state border, the definition of who they are totally changes in terms of things like the status of children," Lambda's Buckel said.

The ALI report recommends that courts consider not only the rights of legal parents, but also "parents by estoppel" and "de facto parents" — both categories that can include gay parents who have not been able to adopt the children they are helping to raise.

These non-legal parents should be allowed child visitation and custody if they are in the best interest of the child, the ALI suggests.

The ALI also recommends regulations for the "best interest of the child" standard itself that could help gay parents.

"Some courts assume that the open homosexuality of a parent is detrimental to the child's interests," the principles state. "This treatment reflects a moral judgment, not a scientific one."

The mere fact of a parent's sexual orientation should have no bearing on custody decisions, while "homosexual conduct, like heterosexual, extramarital conduct, should be disregarded unless shown to be harmful to an individual child," the ALI recommends.

The opinion from the influential law group could have an important effect, according to Kathy T. Graham, a law professor at Willamette University in Salem, Ore.

"It stands as a clear-cut articulation of a standard that promotes gender and sexual orientation fairness," Graham wrote in an article in the Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy.

Undermining marriage?

According to the ALI reporters, their goal in crafting the "Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution" was to suggest policies that reflect the broad range of families in today's society.

But according to Wardle, "the deconstruction of family relationships is a persistent theme of the ALI principles."

In particular, granting legal rights to domestic partners "would significantly weaken the institution of marriage" and "it is contrary to the best interests of society to legalize same-sex domestic partnerships," argued Wardle, who has also lobbied in favor of Utah's ban on gay marriage and against gay parenting.

The Ali authors denied charges that their recommendations would undermine heterosexual marriage.

"This April, I will celebrate my 35th wedding anniversary, so obviously, I believe in marriage," Ellman said. "But I don't think the law has much effect on the way people approach their intimate lives — people don't consult statutes to decide if they want to marry or if they are attracted to the same sex or the opposite sex," Ellman said.

"Because of that, my guidepost is fairness," he said.

Instead of weakening marriage, Blumberg argued that the recognition of financial obligations for domestic partners should actually strengthen the institution.

Some people may avoid getting married in order to avoid such obligations, "but there is no point in not getting married if the law is going to treat them like they are married," she said.

MORE INFO

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national news

Texas sodomy challenge could impact nation

SODOMY, continued from **Page 6**

Kennedy is swing vote?

In court documents, Lambda attorneys offer two independent constitutional arguments against the Texas sodomy law: one, that it violates the constitutional right to privacy; and two, that it violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection because the law criminalizes conduct for gays but does not do so for heterosexuals.

By asking the Supreme Court to consider the right to privacy issue, Lambda is asking the justices to overturn the court's 1986 Hardwick decision, a landmark case that rejected a federal right to privacy challenge brought by a gay man.

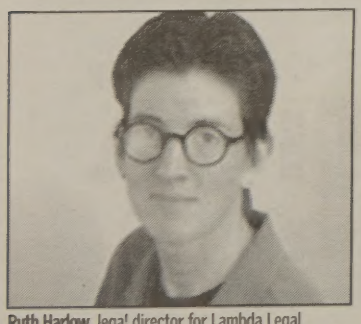
Briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court by the State of Texas in the Lawrence case refer several times to Bowers v. Hardwick. Attorneys for the state argue that under the Hardwick decision, "sexual conduct between persons of the same sex is more 'immoral and unacceptable' than similar conduct occurring between persons of opposite sex."

Only three justices who were part of that ruling — Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and John Paul Stevens — remain on the court. Rehnquist and O'Connor voted with the majority; Stevens with the dissent.

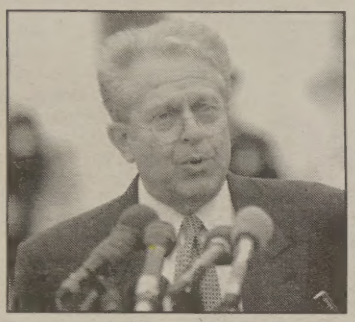
O'Connor has since joined the majority on another landmark gay rights case, Romer vs. Evans, which struck down an amendment to the Colorado constitution that prevented local governments there from enacting gay rights protections. That opinion was authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, a *Ronald Reagan appointee.*

At least two justices who came to the court after Hardwick was decided, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, are likely to vote against overturning the Texas sodomy law. Two justices appointed by President Clinton, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, and one appointed by President George H.W. Bush, David Souter, have positive records on gay rights issues.

If Rehnquist and O'Connor maintain the positions they took in Hardwick, joined by Justices Scalia and Thomas, at least one other justice would still have to join them to form a majority. As was the case in the court's controversial abortion decisions, the crucial swing votes are likely to be Justice Kennedy, and to some degree, Justice O'Connor.



Ruth Harlow, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, said attorneys will argue that the Texas sodomy law violates both the right to privacy and equal protection rights provided in the U.S. Constitution.



Harvard Law School Professor **Laurence Tribe**, who argued against the state of Georgia in the landmark Bowers v. Hardwick case, said this week he is 'delighted' that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the case challenging Texas' sodomy law. (AP)

Two lines of argument

Lambda Legal's Harlow said she was confident the court would accept either or both of the group's positions in the case.

"Basically what we think is correct are two very simple arguments: One is that Texas can't make certain behaviors criminal for one group of people and perfectly legal for another just because it doesn't like the first group, and that's a violation of equal protection," Harlow said.

"The right to privacy claim asks them to reconsider Bowers vs. Hardwick and, by their *taking the whole case, they've at least indicat*ed a willingness to listen to our argument as to why they should reverse this decision.

"We're arguing that Texas has stepped over a line and exceeded its ability to interfere in people's private lives when it starts criminalizing adult consensual behavior taking place in the home," she said. "Government really should be engaged in more important issues and not interfering in adult choices about sexuality."

Laurence H. Tribe, Tyler Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law School, was among those who argued against the Georgia sodomy law in Bowers v. Hardwick. Tribe said this week he hopes the Supreme Court will overturn that decision with a ruling on the Texas case.

"I am delighted by the Supreme Court's decision to review the Texas sodomy statute, which I feel reasonably confident will be held unconstitutional, probably by a vote of 6-3," Tribe said. "When I argued Bowers v. Hardwick and lost by a single vote, I knew it was only a matter of a relatively few years before the court would see the issue in a more enlightened way.

"I fully expect the court to reject the cramped and parochial view of human liberty and privacy that underlay the Hardwick ruling," Tribe added. "Whether the court will ground its decision in liberty as such and in the principle that human freedom cannot be defined in terms of anatomical combinations, or in the principle that no one may be punished for an act that would be lawful if he or she were of the opposite sex, is harder to predict.

"In some ways, such a ruling might seem narrower than one based squarely on liberty, but in other ways such a ruling would be broader, which is a reason to suspect that it might not be forthcoming," he said.

Potentially complex effects

How far-reaching the court's decision may be will depend on which parts of Lambda's argument the justices accept or reject. But Harlow said that if the court strikes down the Texas law in any way, the effects will be felt beyond the Lone Star State.

"They could go two ways, depending on which claim they decide — in our favor, hopefully," she said. "The equal protection claim would directly affect just the four states that have a discriminatory rule for things like oral and anal sex. But that would still be a very important ruling even for people in those other states."

Currently, sodomy is defined as abnormal sex, in some states including anal and oral sex. The nine states that ban consensual sodomy for everyone are Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia. In addition, Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma punish only homosexual sodomy.

If the Supreme Court rules in Lambda's favor and agrees with its right to privacy argument, that ruling would affect all 13 states that still have sodomy laws.

Gay rights leaders say that all such laws harm gay men and lesbians in particular, even if they are not actively enforced.

"What's happening now is, even with neutral laws, they're being used exclusively against gay people," Harlow said.

Although laws such as the Texas sodomy statute allot misdemeanor punishments, Harlow noted that they are often invoked against gays in other contexts, especially child custody battles.

"Those are the situations where we see gay people being branded as criminals because of these laws and having that interfere with their ability to have equal opportunities in employment, and keep their relationships with their children, and so on," she said.

Liz Seaton, senior counsel for the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national gay political organization, pointed out other effects on gays convicted under sodomy laws.

"As a result of the convictions, neither [Lawrence nor Garner] can hold jobs in dozens of professions in Texas and may have to register as sex offenders if they move to some other states," Seaton said. "These laws are used to deny gay workers jobs, refuse lesbian mothers custody, oppose non-discrimination laws and block hate crime legislation.

"These laws are not benign as some might suggest, but have a tangible impact on the lives of individuals and on the entire community," she added.

Texas: 'The conduct is wrong'

States have argued that sodomy laws, some dating back more than 100 years, are intended to preserve public morals. The laws are rarely enforced.

In defending the Texas sodomy statute, attorneys contend that enforcement of the law is not a violation of equal protection and "has a rational basis" because the Texas legislature originated the statute.

William Delmore III, an assistant district attorney in Texas, said people who don't like the law should take it up with the Texas legislature, not the courts.

He said homosexual sodomy has been considered criminal behavior for centuries. The conduct "could not conceivably have achieved the status of a fundamental right in the brief period of 16 years" since the Supreme Court last reviewed it in the Hardwick case, Delmore wrote in the state's court papers.

Delmore said the Texas law does not just target gays. He said it also could be used for bisexuals and heterosexuals "who are tempted to engage in homosexual conduct." The law is part of Texas' "communal belief that the conduct is wrong and should be discouraged," he wrote in a filing.

Weighing in on the case this week, Texas Gov. Rick Perry expressed support for the existing Texas sodomy statute.

"I think our law is appropriate that we have on the books," Perry said.

In a brief supporting Texas, the California-based Pro Family Law Center said states should be given leeway to protect the public from the spread of diseases like AIDS.

Chris Crain and the Associated Press contributed.

Supreme Court issues order in Kan. case

On the same week that the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal challenging the Texas sodomy law, justices also issued an order in a Kansas gay rights case, possibly indicating they may hear arguments on that matter as well.

The court ordered the State of Kansas to file briefs in response to an appeal filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in Limon v. Kansas. The case challenges a Kansas law that provides more serious penalties for oral sex between teenagers of the same sex than penalties for teens of the opposite sex.

Under the Kansas law, if an older teen has oral sex with a teen between the ages of 14 to 16, it is considered statutory rape and the law provides a penalty of probation, so long as the two are of the opposite sex. For same-sex teen couples, probation is not an option.

The defendant, Matthew R. Limon, was 18 when he had consensual oral sex with a 14-year-old boy. Limon received a 17-year prison sentence for the offense.

Activists hope that the Supreme Court's request for a response brief from Kansas officials signals that the justices might agree to hear that case as well. In the Texas sodomy law challenge, attorneys for that state initially did not file a response brief, but were asked this summer to do so. That preceded the court's move this week to hear the case.

Penny Weaver

SUSTIVA (efavirenz) in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

Safety Information

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA®* (sus-TEE-vah)

[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section **"MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."**

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- **have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- **have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, **it is very important to:**

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort *(hypericum perforatum)*, an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-426-7644.

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national news

Anti-gay bias law passes despite objections of Orlando mayor

The Orlando City Council on Monday approved a measure banning anti-gay bias, despite a weeks-long contentious debate and opposition by Mayor **Glenda Hood**. (Photo by Phil Coale/AP)

ORLANDO, Fla. — Over the objection of Mayor Glenda Hood, the Orlando City Council voted 4-3 Monday to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the Associated Press reported. Hood voted against the ordinance, saying it wasn't necessary because the city already was "inclusive." Hood's vote was widely seen as an effort by the third-term mayor to better-position herself for an appointment in the administrations of Gov. Jeb Bush or President Bush. But the mayor's spokesperson, Susan Blexrud, said Hood has never said publicly that a future appointment was her reason for voting against the measure, and she is "highly unlikely" to veto it. The ordinance adds sexual orientation to the city law banning discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Businesses that discriminate could be fined $500 per violation.

Trans may see new victory with Pa. hate crime law

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A week after its passage, Gov. Mark S. Schweiker has not decided whether to make Pennsylvania the 28th state to include sexual orientation in its hate-crimes law, and the fifth state to specifically protect transgendered people in hate crimes laws. A Schweiker spokesperson said last week that the legislation remains under review, the Associated Press reported. The governor has 30 days from Nov. 26, the date the bill gained final passage in the state legislature, to decide whether to sign it. Transgender activists have called 2002 a watershed year for passing legal protections based on gender identity. In California, the San Jose City Council voted unanimously Nov. 26 to expand the city's non-discrimination policy to include transgendered people. The Baltimore City Council passed a similar measure on Nov. 25, and the city commission in Key West, Fla., is currently considering such a policy. Boston, Philadelphia and New York City are among the biggest cities to approve transgender protections this year.

Mont. judge upholds benefits ban for same-sex partners

HELENA, Mont. — A Montana university system policy denying health insurance benefits for partners of gay employees is constitutional, a district judge ruled last week, the Associated Press reported. The policy is based on the marital status of employees, not on their sexual orientation, and that is a "reasonable and objective standard" for determining who qualifies for employment benefits, ruled Judge Thomas Honzel. Beth Brenneman, an attorney for the ACLU, said Nov. 24 the organization will appeal to the Montana Supreme Court on behalf of the two lesbian couples that filed the suit in February. Carol Snetsinger and Carla Grayson, employees of the University of Montana, sought benefits for their female partners. UM offers health insurance to employees, their spouses and children. Heterosexual couples who are not married, but file an affidavit of common law marriage, can also qualify. A lawyer for the Board of Regents said the state "always had confidence that our legal arguments were sound."

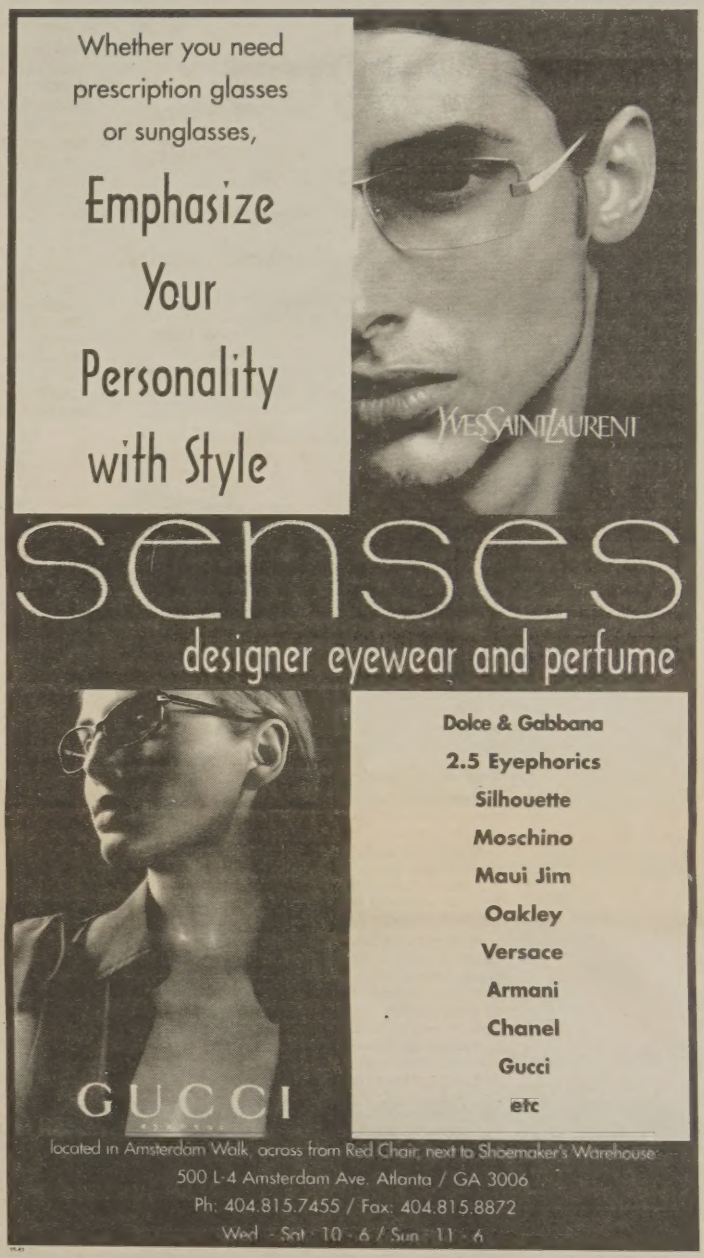
Ky. school district allows gay-straight alliance

CANNONSBURG, Ky. — Boyd County School Superintendent Bill Capehart upheld a decision by a local high school to allow the Gay-Straight Alliance to meet on campus, according to the Associated Press. Capehart said the governing council at Boyd County High School made the right decision based on state and federal law. "Therefore, there is no option but to reaffirm and uphold the decision," he wrote in a letter to two ministers who oppose the club. Capehart said he will recommend that supporters and opponents of the group meet face-to-face to discuss their differences. Kaye King, a teacher and the alliance's adviser, said she is willing to meet with opponents. But "there is no room for compromise" on the group's existence, she said. A week after the Boyd County High council's vote to let the group meet before school hours, about half of the school's 974 students boycotted classes. That weekend, a community rally drew what organizers said was 2,300 people to protest the alliance.

Boy Scouts lose court battle in Berkeley

SAN FRANCISCO — A group affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America lost its legal bid Nov. 23 to continue to get free berthing at Berkeley Marina, according to the Associated Press. The city of Berkeley halted free berthing for the Sea Scouts in 1998 because of the scout's membership and leadership policies against gays. The scouts sued Berkeley and the San Francisco-based 1st District Court of Appeal said the scouts did not have a case. The city stopped free access after it passed a 1997 ordinance forbidding the city from subsidizing groups that discriminate. The scouts maintained that Berkeley's move, among other things, infringed on the group's free speech and association rights. The court said the scouts, regardless of whether they get free berthing, can continue to discriminate against gays. "Berkeley's actions have not required appellants to stop discriminating," the court said. The city still allows the scouts to berth at the city marina, but now charges $516 per month.

From staff and wire reports



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international news

Belgian lawmakers step closer to approving gay marriage

BRUSSELS — The Belgian Senate last week approved a bill allowing same-sex marriages, paving the way for the country to be only the second in Europe to do so, Agence France-Presse reported. The bill, which still has to be approved by the lower house, gives gay couples the same right as heterosexual ones, notably inheritance rights. But the new law will not allow gay couples to adopt children, and will consider the mother in a lesbian couple to be a single parent. "Mentalities have changed. There is no longer any reason not to open marriage to people of the same sex," Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt said last year, when he first launched the proposal. Some legislators applauded the move. "This law will end what some of the homosexual community consider a serious discrimination and should help fight homophobia," lawmaker Josy Dubie said.

Belgium Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt** said it's time for the country to open marriage to gay couples. (Photo by Virginia Mayo/AP)

HIV scare prompts Mexican town to ban cross-dressing

TECATE, Mexico — The City Council has approved a brief ordinance that may ban cross-dressing in this sleepy, colonial village, a move that has shocked some residents, like Ruben Obregon and Jose Alberto Villagomez, according to the Los Angeles Times. The one-sentence law, approved last month, translates: "Men dressed like women in public who are disturbing the peace can be cited for a lack of morals." The ordinance could impact Obregon and Villagomez, both hairstylists at Saidi's Salon just off the town square, who both cross-dress. Advocates for the cross-dressers say the law has had a silver lining, bringing attention to their issues as never before. To fight against the ordinance, Obregon and several friends formed the Rainbow Gay Pride Group, which now has a membership of about 40. The ordinance controversy started this spring when Mayor Juan Vargas said a cross-dressing man tested positive for HIV. "We don't want AIDS in Tecate," council member Cosme Cazares Burgueno told the Times. "The government has an obligation to protect its people. That's the reason we have to take these measures."

Yahoo! criticized by gays in U.K. over TV ad

LONDON — Gay civil rights group Stonewall has called on consumers to boycott companies that make offensive advertising after a TV commercial for Yahoo! had to be pulled off the air, the Guardian reported. The independent television commission suspended the ad after viewers complained it was homophobic and offensive. The commercial featured a naked bridegroom who had been tied to a tree in a stag night prank. He is shown being cruised from behind by a stereotypically camp-looking man, who is strolling in the park. A voiceover explains: "You can't trust the kindness of strangers." Stonewall officials balked. "It is for individuals, as well as groups like us, to make clear to the companies involved that this type of advertising is not doing anyone any favors," said Sacha Deshmukh, Stonewall's head of parliamentary affairs. Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, the ad agency behind the controversial Yahoo! ad, said it didn't mean to offend anyone.

Bush praises fight against disease in World AIDS Day remarks

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Southern African countries marked World AIDS Day last Sunday with hopes that the region, which has the highest rate of HIV-positive people on the planet, can slow the spread of the disease, according to the Associated Press. There are 42 million people with HIV across the globe, with sub-Saharan Africa home to 75 percent of them, according to UNAIDS. Events were also held in Cuba, Brazil, Peru and several other countries. President Bush, in his World AIDS Day proclamation, praised groups that are working to combat AIDS and help the people who suffer from it. About 1 million Americans are infected with HIV. "By working together, we can provide hope and comfort to all those affected by this devastating disease," Bush said. Countries across Asia commemorated World AIDS Day with events to raise awareness of the disease amid warnings that the number of infected people in China and India, the world's two most populous nations, will reach epidemic levels.

Australian foster agencies pursue gays to mend shortage

SYDNEY — Same-sex and transgender couples are being actively targeted by foster care organizations in an attempt to find homes for thousands of disadvantaged children, the Sydney Morning Herald reported. Although Western Australia legalized gay adoptions earlier this year and Tasmania will sometime next year, same-sex couples in some places are still not able to adopt children. Leading foster care agency Barnardo's regularly advertises in a national lesbian magazine and other agencies across the country run fostering courses for gay couples. Mary Jane Beach, treasurer of the NSW Foster Care Association, said foster caring had deteriorated immensely in recent years. "Often for some kids, the best thing for them is to be with a couple who don't have children and they can get intensive one-on-one treatment," she said.

From staff and wire reports

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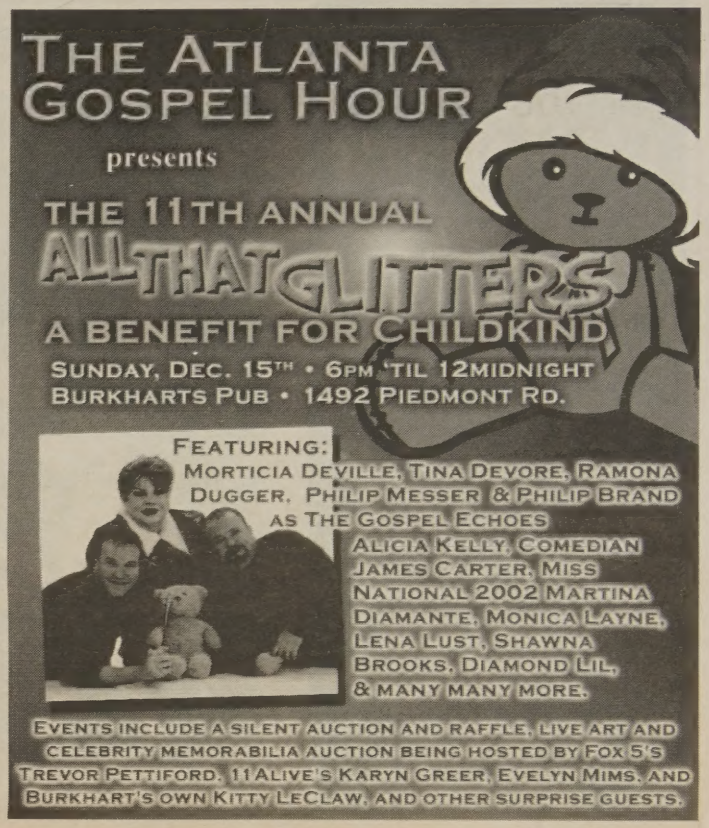
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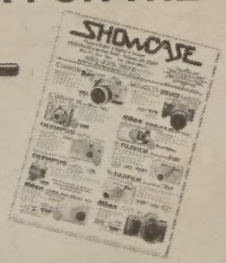

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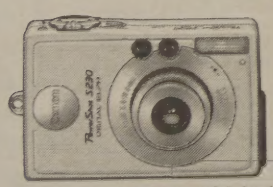

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national news

Cracker Barrel reverses stance on gay protections

Company joins Lockheed Martin in adding sexual orientation to employment policies

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Two companies long known for reluctance to spell out gay-friendly policies switched gears last month, moves applauded by gay shareholders and played down by corporate officials.

Folksy restaurant chain Cracker Barrel, which sparked a boycott after firing gay employees in 1991, abruptly changed its opposition to shareholder efforts promoting the addition of sexual orientation to its written non-discrimination policy by quietly adding the phrase during a board meeting Nov. 26.

Four days earlier, the nation's largest defense contractor, Lockheed Martin Corp. — which employs 7,000 people in its Cobb County facility — also reversed course by expanding its non-discrimination employment policy and pledging to begin offering domestic partner benefits to gay employees by mid-2003.

Both Fortune 1000 companies had been pressured by gay shareholders to adopt gay-inclusive employment policies, efforts that in recent years gained considerable support among fellow stockholders during annual corporate meetings.

"In the last five years, we have seen so much momentum," said Shelley Alpern, vice president of shareholder actions for the New York-based Equality Project, a coalition of investors that organizes gay-friendly shareholder proposals at several large companies, including Lockheed Martin and Cracker Barrel.

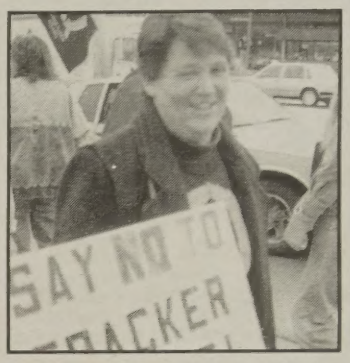
"A company that doesn't have the policy clearly stands out as not being on the ball, not bench-marking to its peers," she said.

At Cracker Barrel, a Lebanon, Tenn.-based company with 463 restaurants across 41 states, a majority of shareholders last week supported adding sexual orientation to the chain's employment policy, gay activists said. Company directors opposed the proposal before their annual shareholder meeting last month, but later softened their stance, approving the measure without a shareholder vote.

"It is a simple matter of listening to the shareholders," said Julie Davis, a company spokesperson. "The shareholder proposal had a lot of backing this year, substantially more than in years past. ... We listen to our shareholders."

The policy change went unnoticed until the Human Rights Campaign issued a press release Wednesday praising the company.

Davis said earlier this year that adding the phrase "sexual orientation" would make the company's employment policy "untenable. It would become pages and pages long, basically."



Cheryl Summerville, fired by Cracker Barrel in 1991 for being gay, said she is shocked the restaurant company last week expanded its employment non-discrimination statement to include sexual orientation.

Gay activists launched a boycott of Cracker Barrel in 1991 after 11 employees were handed pink slips that specifically listed "homosexuality" as the reason for their firing.

Cheryl Summerville, a lesbian who worked in a Douglasville, Ga., restaurant, and her supporters picketed local Cracker Barrel restaurants and purchased stock as a way of sparking activism from the inside, an effort often credited as launching gay shareholder activism in the 1990s.

Summerville, arrested three times during the protests, hasn't stepped inside a Cracker Barrel in eight years. Even with the company's new gay-friendly position, she said she hasn't experienced a change of heart about Cracker Barrel.

"I am shocked," Summerville, now circulation manager at Southern Voice, said about the company's policy change. "It's been so long I didn't think they would ever do it. It has come up every year, and I am really surprised. I just don't believe it."

At Lockheed, the chief executive, Vance D. Coffman, followed the recommendations of the company's executive council, which he impaneled this year to address diversity issues, and supported the expansion of its non-discrimination policy to include three new categories: sexual orientation, ancestry and family structure.

The company will also roll out domestic partner benefits for its 125,000 employees as soon as mid-2003, according to Meghan Mariman, a Lockheed Martin spokesperson.

In April, company directors asked shareholders to reject a proposal to expand its employment statement to include sexual orientation. The effort, led by a student at Swarthmore College and supported by the Equality Project, failed.

"I am surprised to hear that they have gone ahead and made this change because from the signals we were getting, they were pretty resistant," said Tom Krattenmaker, a Swarthmore spokesperson. "We are glad that they have had this change of heart."

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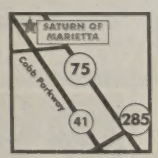

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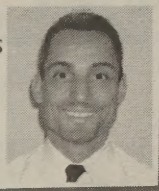

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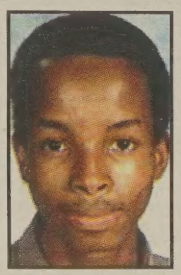
Ala. man found guilty in gruesome anti-gay slaying

MOBILE, Ala. — A jury convicted a man of murder Tuesday in the stabbing death of a gay man who had holes bored in his head from a portable drill while passed out drunk, the Associated Press reported. James Talmadge West Jr., 37, claimed self-defense in the Aug. 17, 2001, slaying of 43-year-old Brian Bullock, saying Bullock had attempted to rape him at West's home. Sentencing was set for Jan. 30. West could get 20 years to life in prison. Defense attorney John Wayne Boone said West was forced into a desperate fight for survival against a drunken "homosexual" attack from Bullock. But Assistant District Attorney John Furman told the jury that whether Bullock was "homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual is not really an issue in this case." West mutilated Bullock with household tools, including a portable drill, which he pushed through Bullock's skull into the brain, according to testimony.

Family of slain gay man settles wrongful death suit

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — The family of a slain gay man recently settled a wrongful death lawsuit against his admitted killers, according to the Associated Press. J.R. Warren, 26, was beaten and then crushed under a car in July 2000 by two men who were later convicted of first-degree murder. Warren's parents filed the civil action in June, alleging that the killers inaccurately portrayed their son as a sexual predator. "He was not a predator. He was a victim," said Brenda Warren, the victim's mother. "This was all to set the record straight." At the time of the killing, authorities said one of the convicted teens initiated the attack in a drug- and alcohol-fueled rage, brought on by his belief that Warren told others of a long-standing sexual relationship the two shared. The amount of the financial settlement was not released.



The family of slain gay man **J.R. Warren** recently settled a wrongful death civil case against his convicted killers for an undisclosed sum. (Photo courtesy CNN)

Calif. man found guilty of sexually assaulting Marines

SAN DIEGO— A man was convicted of sexual assault for luring several Marines back to his condominium and then sexually abusing them after they passed out, according to the Associated Press. Amiro Columna, 47, was found guilty of the felony charges Nov. 27 and faces up to 12 years in prison at a Jan. 8 sentencing. Prosecutors said Columna got the Marines to his home in March 2001 by promising them alcohol and women. Two Marines, ages 19 and 23, testified they got drunk, lost consciousness and woke up to find Columna performing a sex act on them. "They went there expecting heterosexual fun, and it ended in a homosexual nightmare," prosecutor Patrick Espinoza Jr. told the jury. Columna was known for asking military men to his home. Officials at nearby Camp Pendleton warned new recruits to stay away from him, prosecutors said.

Texas man charged in two killings issued bond

EL PASO, Texas — A man arrested in the slaying of a woman while released on bond in the killing of a cross-dresser was issued a $1.25 million bond Nov. 27, according to the El Paso Times. Justen Grant Hall, 21, was expected to be transferred from a Northeastern Texas jail to El Paso this week. The second bond sparked protests from gay groups and the family of his alleged first victim, 28-year-old cross-dresser Arturo Diaz, who was shot in the back in April. Police suspect that the Diaz killing was motivated by gender identity bias. Hall was free on a $75,000 bond for Diaz's murder when he allegedly strangled Melanie Billhartz, 29. Gay activist Rob Knight said holding Hall without bond would send a message of zero tolerance for hate crimes. Hall "shouldn't have any bond. He proved he doesn't have any heart," said Lucy Diaz, the first victim's sister. Hall was arrested allegedly driving the car of Billhartz.

W. Va. high court affirms conviction of man in slaying

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A stack of photographs did not bias the jury that convicted a minister for the 1996 murder of his wife, the state Supreme Court unanimously concluded Nov. 27, according to the Associated Press. James Michael Flippo argued that photos of a male friend removing wet clothing made the jury believe he was gay and cheating on his wife. "The photographs, giving them their worst possible interpretation, do not remotely tend to cause such a belief," said the opinion written by Chief Justice Robin Davis. "These photographs show neither any nudity nor are they in any manner or fashion sexually explicit or suggestive." The jury found that Flippo lured Cheryl Jewell Flippo to an isolated cabin where he beat her to death with a piece of firewood. Prosecutors contended that Flippo killed his wife because she objected to his reckless spending and his relationship with Joel Boggess, the man in the photos. Flippo is serving a life sentence without parole.

From staff and wire reports

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Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

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Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

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Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
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- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

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It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
  Phenobarbital
  Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
  These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- **Other Special Considerations:**
  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- **If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:**
  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Ref.: 03-5177-R6

Revised: January, 2002

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national news

FBI: Anti-gay hate crimes up last year

Report finds 1,393 incidents based on sexual orientation

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — The number of hate crimes reported by U.S. law enforcement agencies that were based on a victim's sexual orientation increased by 7.2 percent, from 1,299 in 2000 to 1,393 in 2001, according to the FBI's latest "Hate Crimes Statistics" report, which was released Nov. 25.

The report shows that the rise in gay-related hate crimes appears modest compared to a dramatic increase in non-Hispanic ethnicity and national origin based hate crimes, which rose from 354 in 2000 to 1,501 in 2001, an increase of more than 235 percent.

The non-Hispanic ethnicity/national origin category includes people of Middle Eastern origin or descent, who became targets of most of the hate crimes in this category, the FBI says, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The FBI report shows that law enforcement agencies reported a total of 9,730 hate crime incidents in the U.S. in 2001, an increase of 20.6 percent over the 8,063 hate crime incidents reported in 2000.

Sexual orientation bias accounted for 14.3 percent of the total reported incidents. As it has in past years, the report shows that incidents based on racial bias represented the largest percentage of hate crime incidents in 2001: 44.9 percent.

Hate crimes based on ethnicity/national origin bias, including Hispanics, was the second highest category at 21.6 percent, followed by religious bias with 18.8 percent, sexual orientation and disability related bias with 0.3 percent.

The FBI report shows that most sexual orientation-based hate crimes involved gay men as victims. Of the 1,393 gay incidents in 2001, 980 were against gay men, 205 were against lesbians, 173 were against "homosexuals" whose gender was not identified, 18 targeted heterosexuals, and 17 were against bisexuals, the report states.

The gay-related incidents involved a total of 1,592 criminal offenses, 1,664 victims, and 1,580 known offenders, according to the report.

Among the known offenders linked to sexual orientation incidents, 804 were white, 203 were black, five were Native American, eight were Asian/Pacific Islander, 31 were of multiple races and 85 were of an unknown race, the report said.

Also similar to past years, the most frequently reported crime based on sexual orientation was listed as intimidation in 462 cases. Following close behind were 460 simple assaults, 203 aggravated assaults, one forcible rape and one murder or manslaughter.

> 'Violence still remains a constant threat that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans face.'
>
> — Winnie Stachelberg, Human Rights Campaign

In the category of crimes against property, the most prevalent crimes based on a victim's sexual orientation were 419 incidents of "destruction/damage/vandalism," followed by 50 robberies, 18 larceny thefts, 17 burglaries and two motor vehicle thefts.

The report shows that the most common location for anti-gay hate crimes was a victim's residence or home with 465 incidents. Other locations include 315 street incidents, 163 school campuses, 101 parking lots or garages and a 48 bars or nightclubs.

In a section on the number of hate crimes in individual states, the report shows there were nine anti-gay hate crimes reported in Georgia compared to 11 reported in 2000.

Gay organizations monitoring anti-gay hate crimes expressed concern that the annual Hate Crime Statistics Report grossly underreports the number of incidents in the U.S.

But groups like the New York based National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs do not fault the FBI, which has worked hard to compile data on such crimes, officials said.

The problem lies with local and state law enforcement agencies that often fail to compile information on hate crimes, especially hate crimes based on sexual orientation, these groups say.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 calls on the FBI to encourage local and state law enforcement agencies to collect data on hate crimes, but the act does not require law enforcement agencies to do so, making the information gathering process a voluntary endeavor.

"While we are making enormous progress on many fronts, violence still remains a constant threat that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans face," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay political group.

"The rise in hate crimes highlights why we need to pass federal legislation to combat this disturbing trend."

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national news

Psychiatric group adopts pro-gay adoption statement

Two other national medical groups recently enacted similar positions

By RHONDA SMITH

WASHINGTON—The American Psychiatric Association's Board of Trustees approved a position statement last week supporting adoption and co-parenting of children by gay couples.

The statement says the 37,000-member organization "supports initiatives which allow same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children and supports all the associated legal rights, benefits and responsibilities which arise from such initiatives."

"It's more evidence that mainstream organizations support the idea of gay and lesbian families and changing the law to make it easier for gay, lesbian and bisexual couples to adopt children," said Dan Hicks, a member of the APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Issues.

The decision follows similar actions earlier this year by the American Psychoanalytic Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"The whole trend of what has happened this year is completely unprecedented," said Lisa Bennett, deputy director for the Human Rights Campaign FamilyNet Project, which monitors gay family issues nationwide.

"When groups like this come forward, I think the general public has to stop and take notice," she said.

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a technical report in February that cites a growing body of scientific studies that show children with one or two gay parents fare as well as children whose parents are heterosexual.

"Children's optimal development seems to be influenced more by the nature of the relationships and interactions within the family unit than by the particular structural form it takes," the report states.

The APA's Committee on Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Issues drafted the position statement, and the organization's Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities supported it, officials said.

"Numerous studies over the last three decades consistently demonstrate that children raised by gay or lesbian parents exhibit the same level of emotional, cognitive, social and sexual functioning as children raised by heterosexual parents," supporters of the position statement said in related documents. "This research indicates that optimal development for children is based not on the sexual orientation of the parents but on stable attachments to committed and nurturing adults."

The New York Times reported Nov. 29 that the Philadelphia-based American Law Institute, an influential organization of judges, lawyers and legal scholars, recently recommended broad changes in family law in a comprehensive report that in part says a parent's sexual orientation should not be a factor in child custody decisions

(Please see story, page 15).

Eight states and Washington, D.C., approve second-parent adoptions for gay and lesbian couples either by statute or state appellate court rulings, though not according to HRC.

Gay parents in 19 other states, including Georgia, have been granted second-parent adoptions at the trial court level in certain counties, Bennett said.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, which represents 93,500 medical doctors and students nationwide, adopted a gay-supportive policy statement in October. It callsfor a policy and support of "legislation which promotes a safe and nurturing environment, including psychological and legal security for all children, including those of adoptive parents, regardless of the parents' sexual orientation."

In May, the 3,000-member American Psychoanalytic Association, a New York City-based professional organization for psychoanalysts, adopted its position statement on gay and lesbian parenting. It says the evaluation of an individual or couple as committed, nurturing and competent parents should be determined without prejudice regarding sexual orientation.

The 6,500-member American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry approved a gay-supportive policy statement in 1999. It notes that lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals historically have faced more rigorous scrutiny than heterosexuals regarding their rights to be or become parents.

The 155,000-member American Psychological Association adopted its gay-supportive position statement on child custody or placement in 1976, three years after announcing that homosexuality is not a mental disorder.

Breaking the ice

Gay hockey league chips away at 'last Caucasian hetero male sport'

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

The ever-growing sect of gay sports in Atlanta has a relatively recent addition on the ice rink, and no, it is not figure skating.

One man's ice vision resulted in Gay Hockey Atlanta, a growing hockey club with one team currently: the Lizard Kings.

GHA started when Stace Duvall, its director, ran an ad in Southern Voice "to find some people to go to stick time with," he said.

Duvall, tired of being in the locker room by himself feeling uncomfortable as the lone gay man, wanted to find some buddies to enjoy hockey, he said.

Soon, GHA formed, calling its sole burgeoning team the "Flames." But GHA did not have enough players to field its own independent team, so it decided to merge with a straight team, adopt its name (the Lizard Kings) and compete in the 2001-2002 winter season in Duluth.

MORE INFO

Gay Hockey Atlanta
Pride Night 2003
Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Phillips Arena
1 Phillips Drive
$20
www.atlantagayhockey.com

"We sucked," Duvall said. "We spent half the season with the two halves of the team trying to learn how to deal with each other."

But the discord had nothing to do with sexual orientation, because the Flames half of the team didn't initially tell the other half that they were gay.

"We weren't exactly sure how to totally come out on the ice without having a major impact on the other half of the team," Duvall said.

While playing games as the Lizard Kings in a straight league, GHA held separate meetings. Duvall and members decided to hold a fundraiser selling tickets for a Thrashers game, with the agreement that if GHA sold a certain number of tickets, their team would get to play a game at Phillips Arena after the Thrashers played.

The Jan. 23 game date was dubbed "Pride Night 2002," and the Flames half of the Lizard Kings notified their teammates that they would be playing under the GHA banner, Duvall said.

Although the Lizard Kings got to play after the Thrashers, Duvall was not completely satisfied with the first-ever Thrasher Pride Night.

"The Thrashers Disneyed it," he said. "They put up on the scoreboard 'GHA Pride Night,' but they never did say what GHA stood for. Hockey is the last Caucasian hetero-male sport that there is, and they weren't quite sure how that audience was going to react."

A year later, GHA revamped by moving to a different rink, joining a new, more open league (the Polardrome Hockey Club), and holding a summer training session.

For this winter season, GHA kept the Lizard Kings name and includes one woman, several gay men, a pre-op transgendered woman and three straight men, Duvall said.

The **Lizard Kings**, Atlanta's gay hockey team, stand at 4-4 this season with seven games to go until the playoffs. Last season, the team was winless. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Lisa Majeski, the team's lone biological female member.

"I like the diversity because you can be straight, you can be gay, you can be transsexual — there is no animosity there," Lisa Majeski said.

The strongest trait the team has, according to both Majeski and Lizard Kings coach Paul Turner, is the Kings' strong bond.

Turner ranks the team's goal tending and defensive core below the powerful team spirit his team demonstrates and attributes its 4-4 record this season to the rigor of summer practices.

"We had people who could literally barely stand on skates. Now, they're skating on a line, making good shots and taking pucks away from people," Turner said.

The team hopes to make playoffs this year, and plans on organizing a travelling team to compete against gay teams in other cities like New York, Chicago and Toronto.

Pride Night 2003 takes place on Jan. 23 at Phillips Arena after the Thrashers game against the Ottawa Senators.

NAMES Project dedicates new office, quilt panels

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

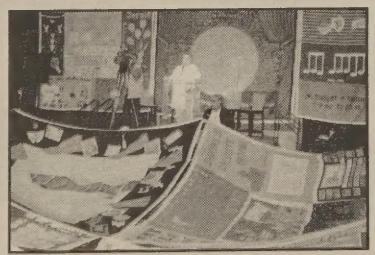
The National NAMES Project Foundation moved headquarters from its birthplace in San Francisco to Atlanta nearly two years ago, but the new headquarters was officially dedicated Monday, the day after World AIDS Day.

MORE INFO

National NAMES Project Foundation
101 Krog St.
404-688-5500
www.aidsquilt.org

The NAMES Project, which oversees the AIDS Memorial Quilt and its 80,000 panels commemorating the lives of people lost to AIDS, relocated in April 2001 and has been preparing the new 15,000-square-foot site on Krog Street to house the quilt and the NAMES Project offices since the move.

Speakers at the ceremony included U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.); Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt; Dr. Adewale Troutman, director of the Fulton County Department of Health & Wellness; and Julie Rhoad, executive director of the NAMES Project Foundation.



Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, read aloud the names of those lost to AIDS, as several people unfolded new panels honoring people who died of the disease. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, **Page 24** COMMUNITY NEWS, **Page 25** OCCASIONS, **Page 60**

notes

The **Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus** presents 'Winter Muses' at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (1790 Lavista Road) on Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 8 at the Georgia Tech Student Ballroom. $17 per adult, $13 for students and seniors. www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1571

SATURDAY DEC. 7

DINING FOR CHARITY: **Blue Trout** hops on the bandwagon to support the CHRIS Rainbow Home in its fund-raising efforts by donating a percentage of the day's proceeds to the facility for homeless gay youth. 554 Piedmont Ave. 404-685-9575 or www.eatbluetrout.com

MONDAY DEC. 9

VIDEO & RAP NIGHT: **Black & White Men Together** hosts a monthly video night at 7:30 p.m. to view **'Holiday Heart,'** a film by Robert Townsend about a church-loving, drag queen with a heart of gold. Private home. 404-892-BWMT or http://geocities.com/bwmtatlanta

WEDNESDAY DEC. 11

HOLIDAY AUCTION: The **Greater Atlanta Business Coalition**, Atlanta's gay and lesbian Chamber of Commerce, hosts a silent auction for CHRIS Rainbow Home as its annual December **Holiday Party** from 6-7:30 p.m. at Decatur First Bank. Auction items include trips to the 2003 Gay Day at Disney World. 1120 Commerce Dr., Decatur. www.gabc.net

FRIDAY DEC. 13

GAY OUTDOORS: The Wilderness Network of Georgia, a gay men's outdoors group, holds its quarterly **potluck and planning meeting** to discuss upcoming camping and hiking trips at 6:30 p.m. in Oakhurst Baptist Church. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. www.wildnetga.org or 404-378-2504

local news

Meals program offers nourishment, nurturing

Project Open Hand provides hot food, other services to PWAs

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Danny Holt stops by Project Open Hand once a week to pick up a grocery bag that he says is crucial to his survival. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Despite public perception that the number of people affected by AIDS is "leveling off," Project Open Hand, an organization providing food to people living with HIV/AIDS, has "more clients than its ever had," said Tanya Johnson, director of development at Project Open Hand.

"In the past two years, we've seen an increase in 23 percent of clients each year," Johnson said.

The group currently provides nutritional services to 870 people living with HIV/AIDS — more than twice the number of people served in 1996, she said. The agency also serves homebound senior citizens and people with other critical illnesses.

"The perception is that people don't need a lot of the services that AIDS service organizations provide when in fact our services are becoming more and more necessary," Johnson said.

Johnson attributed public misconception to both a lack of AIDS visibility and a misrepresentation of the face of AIDS.

"The public just doesn't see the people who are very sick in the community," she said. "And in the ads for HIV meds, the people look so vibrant and healthy and happy when in fact the meds cause nausea, diarrhea and fatigue."

Project Open Hand's services are vital to their health and well-being, and continued financial support is crucial, Johnson said.

Danny Holt, a Project Open Hand client, attested to the necessity of the organization in his daily life.

"To me, it is a very important agency, and I don't think with my income, after paying my bills, I don't think I could make it," Holt said. "They touch and help a lot of clients that really need the help that are in the same situation as I am, and I feel that they are giving a gift for us to keep surviving and to live a more productive life."

Holt is not only a Project Open Hand client. He also volunteers as often as he can to deliver meals to people unable to leave home.

HELPING OUT

Editor's note: Every week throughout the holiday season, Southern Voice highlights a charity organization that lends a hand to gay people and embodies the spirit of giving by Helping Out. E-mail editor@sovo.com with suggestions for future profiles.

Holt worked in AIDS service even before he was diagnosed with the disease on June 17, 1992.

"Before I was diagnosed, I was taking care of my best friend's brother and his partner in Birmingham, Ala.," he said.

Holt cooked, cleaned, washed clothes, distributed medications and took the men to the doctor for about three years until they passed away in 1991, he said.

Both men died before Holt found out he is HIV-positive. After his diagnosis, Holt moved to Arizona to live near his parents and continued working with PWAs.

In Arizona, he volunteered with several AIDS organizations, including AIDS Phoenix, where he helped start a food pantry program. AIDS Phoenix also certified Holt in HIV/AIDS education, which came in handy when he moved to Atlanta and volunteered with AID Atlanta on the speaker's bureau to tell his story.

Holt became a client of Atlanta's Project Open Hand in February 2000, when his caseworker at AID Atlanta connected him to Johnson, who worked in client services at that time.

"Tanya was a very supportive person for me," he said. "If I need anything, all I have to do is call her and she'll call me back without any problem."

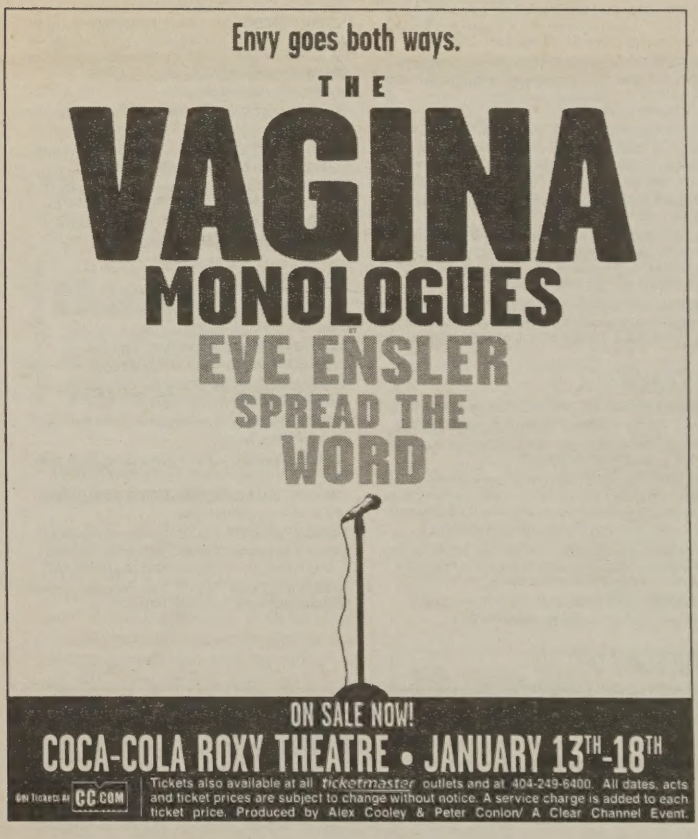
The philosophy at Project Open Hand is to do everything possible to meet the needs of the entire client base, according to Johnson.

"The answer we do not want to give them is, 'We don't do that here.' That is not an acceptable answer for us," she said.

Project Open Hand runs three programs for critically ill people, their dependent children and homebound seniors who do not qualify for other meal programs: the prepared meals program, the pantry program and the dependent children program.

This holiday season, Project Open Hand is exercising its above-and-beyond philosophy, providing Christmas gifts to clients' children, 95 percent of whom live below poverty level, Johnson said.

MORE INFO
Project Open Hand
176 Ottley Drive
404-876-8089
www.projectopenhand.org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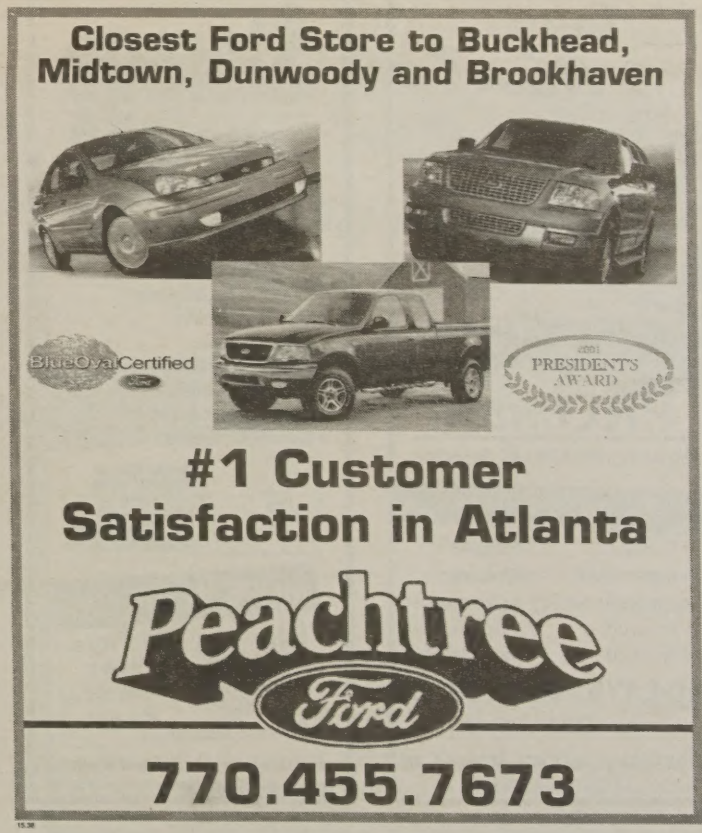

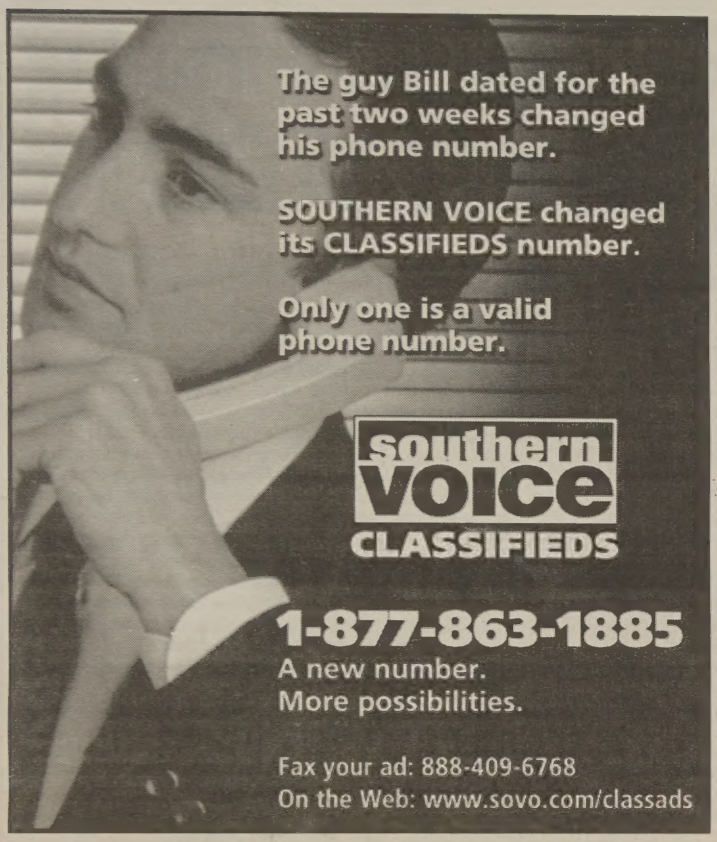
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community calendar

ATHENS

SATURDAY DEC. 7

GLBT TEEN GROUP. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

MONDAY DEC. 9

LAMBDA ALLIANCE. 7 pm. UGA's LGBT student organization. Study Break. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

ATLANTA

SATURDAY DEC. 7

ADOPTION INFORMATION SESSION. 9:30 am.-1:30 pm. Independent Adoption Center, 3774 LaVista Rd. Suite 100, Tucker, GA 404-321-6900

ARTISTS MARKET. 10 am.-3 pm. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Dr. 770-913-3978

ATLANTA GIRTH & MIRTH. 9 pm. Social activities for large men and their admirers. The Eagle, 306 Ponce de Leon. 770-663-7041

ATLANTA PRIME-TIMERS. 3 pm. Social group for older gay and bisexual men, 40+. Ponce de Leon Library. 770-441-5573 or ww.primetimers.org/atlanta

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER. 7:30 pm. Potluck dinner. 404-892-2968 or http://geocities.com/bwmtatlanta

FRONT RUNNERS. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS. 10 am.-2 pm. $19 at Ansley Mall, 1544 Piedmont Ave. AID Atlanta, 404-870-7763

HOTLANTA BASKETBALL. Men at 11:30 am. Women at 2 pm. New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

RAINBOW HOME BENEFIT. All day. Blue Trout Restaurant. 554 Piedmont Ave. www.eatbluetrout.com or 404-685-9575

WINTER MUSES. 8 pm. Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Tickets at Charis, Outwrite and Brushstrokes. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

SUNDAY DEC. 8

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

GEN-X BEARS. International network of younger bears providing friendship and support to ages 18-35, but open to all. 404-635-9344, gagenx@genxbears.org. www.genxbears.org/atlanta

PFLAG RIVERDALE/METRO SOUTH. 3 pm. Metro South Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays at the Southern Regional Medical Center (Education Wing). Everyone welcome. 404-366-3675 or 404-370-7316. deejaymrrw@aol.com

POTLUCK SOCIALS FOR N GA RESIDENTS. Different location each month. 706-864-3229

SECOND SUNDAY OF ATLANTA. 6-8:30 pm. Discussion group for gay, same gender loving, bisexual, straight, transgendered men of African descent. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

WINTER MUSES. 3 pm. Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus at Georgia Tech Student Ballroom. Tickets at Charis, Outwrite and Brushstrokes. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

MONDAY DEC. 9

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER. 7:30 pm. Video & rap night. 404-892-2968 or http://geocities.com/bwmtatlanta

GRRL GROUP. 6:30 – 8 p.m. Ages 13-17. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

HOTLANTA SQUARES. High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404—432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

KIKI IDENTIFYING LESBIAN GROUP. 6:30 p.m. For women who play the range of sexuality, from butch to femme. The Center. 159 Ralph McGill. 404-523-7500

LAVENDER LIGHT BOOK CLUB. 7:30-9:30 pm. Borders Snellville, 1929 Scenic Highway. 404-874-8294

TUESDAY DEC. 10

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Survivors support group. 6:30 pm. 404-688-2524

ATLANTA LESBIAN LIFESTYLES. 7 pm. For women who enjoy the company of other women. My Sisters' Room. www.belladona.org

ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS. 7 p.m. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" at 8 p.m. 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

BISEXUAL WOMEN. 6:30 p.m. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

WEDNESDAY DEC. 11

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Bereavement Group, 7 pm. 404-688-2524

FRONT RUNNERS. 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GAY FATHERS OF ATLANTA. 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Atlanta-Fulton Library, 980 Ponce de Leon. 404-342-6451

HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE RITUAL. 7 pm. Led by Sister Margaret McAnoy at ALCI to honor lost loved ones. 1530 DeKalb Ave, Suite A. 404-688-2524 or www.alci.org

RAINBOW HOME TEAS. Continental breakfast, 7:45 am.-8:30 am. Afternoon tea, 5:45 pm.-6:30 pm. RSVP by Tuesday, 3 pm. 404-486-9034, x104.

TEEN GROUP. Teen support group at YouthPride (ages 13-18), 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Group for ages 18-24 at YouthPride, 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

THURSDAY DEC. 12

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals 7:30 – 10 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Rd. Atlanta, GA 30329. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 p.m. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

BOYTALK. 6:30-8 pm. Discussion group for GBTQ youth 18-24. At YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620.

CLITERATI. Grrls' spoken word open mic. 8 p.m. Tower II, Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-687-9807, Tankgrrl10@hotmail.com

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 7 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

LESBIAN AVENGERS. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

LGBT BOOK GROUP. Outwrite Bookstore, 7:30 pm. 404-872-0726. rambook@aol.com.

LONG TERM SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-9 pm. Must pre-register. Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

GUYTALK. 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men 18-24. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

SAFE HARBOR. 7:30 p.m. Christian fellowship and bible study for gay men and lesbians. 770-717-9971 or404-622-8561

WOMYN'S GROUP. Ages 18-24 at YouthPride. 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

FRIDAY DEC. 13

THE AGENDA Midniight. Gay Television. People TV Cable Channel 24. www.herounit.com

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 7:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

FOURTH TUESDAY. 6:30 pm. Happy hour at the Red Chair. www.fourthtuesday.org

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS. 9:30 pm.-12 am. $19 at Ansley Mall, 1544 Piedmont Ave. AID Atlanta, 404-870-7763

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

INTEGRITY/ATLANTA. 7 pm. Episcopal group of gays, lesbians, and transgendered persons. Meal served. All Saints' Episcopal, North Ave. at West Pechtree St. 770-642-3183

WOMEN WRITERS WORKSHOP. 8 pm. Featuring Letta Neely at Charis. 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com,** call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance

local news

Gay police liaison seeks to fill task force seats

ATLANTA — Sgt. Connie Locke, the Atlanta Police Department's gay liaison, is taking applications from gays to fill seats on a task force created in November. The citizen task force will meet with Locke once a month to address issues that concern gay men, lesbians and transgendered people when dealing with law enforcement. The board of representatives holds seats for people in seven demographic categories, and two of the seats are filled. Dee Dee Chamblee, president of LaGender Inc. Support Group, will fill the transgendered seat, and Ryan Peterson volunteered to serve as the homeowner/neighborhood association representative. Locke is still accepting applications for people of color, bars/businesses, youth, non-profit groups and events.

As part of her liaison role, Locke will conduct crime prevention seminars where "GLBT businesses and residents are concentrated" and identify challenges through crime analysis, community awareness seminars, patrol efforts and community responses. Locke also plans to make herself available for dispatch to all criminal incidents involving gay people "in order to gain the GLBT community's trust," she said. The cut-off date for applications to the panel is Dec. 20.

Sgt. **Connie Locke**, the Atlanta Police Department's gay liaison, seeks five gay people to meet with her once a month about gay issues with the police. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

MORE INFO
Sgt. Connie Locke
Field Operations Division, APD
675 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE
404-853-7775
clocke@atlantaapd.org

Pride committee seeks suggestions for 2003 theme

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Pride Committee requests suggestions from citizens for the Pride 2003 theme. Last year's theme was "Power of Pride." By submitting themes, gays have the chance to participate in an event designed by and for the "GLBT communities," said Donna Narducci, executive director of Atlanta Pride. "A theme serves as the unifying force of the event, the thread that ties it together, so we would like to hear from the many voices that make up our diverse community," Narducci said. The deadline for online and mail-in submissions is Dec. 14, and the Pride committee will announce the theme in January. Two VIP Pride party tickets and an event T-shirt go to the person or persons who submit the winning theme. Pride 2003 will be held at Piedmont Park on June 27-29.

MORE INFO
Atlanta Pride Committee
57 Executive Park South, Suite 380
404-929-0071
www.atlantapride.org/festival/theme.cfm

Adoption center welcomes gay parents

ATLANTA — The Independent Adoption Center, a national non-profit educational and counseling foundation that holds adoption information sessions, offers a workshop Dec. 7 to help people learn about building a family through open adoption. Gay men and lesbians are welcome, said Michelle Black, regional intake services associate for IAC. "We have no restrictions whatsoever," she said. "The services we would offer a gay couple would be the same as a heterosexual couple." The workshop covers the open adoption procedure and differentiates it from attorney-based, international and agency adoptions, Black said. In open adoption, adoptive parents and birth parents work together to develop a plan that suits both parties at birth and beyond. Between one and two percent of IAC clients are gay men or lesbians, Black said. Reservations are required to attend the session.

MORE INFO
Adoption Information Session
Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Independent Adoption Center
3774 Lavista Road, Suite 100
404-321-6900
www.IndependentAdoptionCenter.org

Lesbian cancer group hosts holiday remembrance

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative hosts its third Holiday Remembrance Ritual on Dec. 11. The service is for "people who have lost someone close to them and for whom the memory is really sharp this year because of the holidays," said Shirley Adams, special projects coordinator at ALCI. The service's leader makes a general presentation that is followed by shared memories from group members, Adams said. Sister Margaret McAnoy, a chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital and longtime HIV/AIDS volunteer, leads this year's service. After group sharing, healing rituals involving candles, music, spoken word or meditation will follow, Adams said.

Christopher Seely

MORE INFO
Holiday Remembrance Ritual
Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative
1530 DeKalb Ave. Suite A
404-688-2524
www.alci.org

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guest editorial

Lessons from a gay bashing

Racism and homophobia both blame the victim: The black man shouldn't eyeball a white woman, and a man **shouldn't eyeball** another man.

By CRAIG WASHINGTON

SINCE THE ANTI-GAY BEATing last month at Morehouse College, one of the most revered black academic institutions in the nation has become the focus of national scrutiny.

Even after the district attorney announced he would prosecute the attack as a hate crime, Morehouse President Walter Massey has yet to admit to a history of on-campus anti-gay abuse and that this crime was motivated by the perception that the victim was homosexual.

Like most private schools, Morehouse will not voluntarily air its soiled linens. It has given the world some of its most celebrated leaders and scholars and prides itself on maintaining standards of academic excellence.

But the true mark of distinction at Morehouse is the sense of decorum and institutional loyalty instilled in generations of young men. The fabled "Morehouse man" is an enduring symbol of black male excellence that reflects traditional African-American values and the behavior codes used to uphold them.

SEXUALITY IN GENERAL AND CERTAINly homosexuality specifically, confound those codes. The emergence of contemporary black male homosexual identities and culture is forcing all-black institutions to reexamine rigid norms of gender propriety and the related constructs of manhood.

Many men, though they may not use the term "gay" to self-identify, are not ashamed of their sexuality and are constructing self-affirming oases within these black spaces. This is what is happening at Morehouse College, which for the first time in its history now has an official gay student organization called Safe Space.

This new assertion of self-legitimized non-heterosexuals has met with widespread resistance. Many straight Morehouse men resent the challenges to their heterosexist privilege that are presented by gays and women who will not be dominated, who will not stay in their place.

Gregory Love, the student who was attacked, was perceived as not staying in his place. His alleged gaze at another man's naked body traverses the boundaries that many heterosexual men feel entitled to cross when they openly glare at a Spelman student's behind. Yet because the gaze is unwanted and socially unacceptable and does not serve heterosexual need, it is a violation for which the gazer must be punished.

BLACK PEOPLE HAVE TRADITIONALLY embraced gay men and lesbians, but public dialogue about homosexuality has aroused deep-seeded cultural anxieties. We are troubled by the fluid nature of sexuality that often flouts the neat categories we've imposed to contain it. If student violence is a coffee spill on the cuff, troublesome but nonthreatening, then homosexuality is a semen stain on the dress (or trousers), loaded with indictment, buried deep down in the basket.

Many blacks who face racism daily are slow to confess the privileges they derive and the oppression they wield or support within their own communities. Some black men who are well versed in their analysis of racism do not recognize their own sexism and how black women are subjugated by it. Black heterosexual women may demonstrate an understanding of both racism and sexism and yet disclaim the parallel elements that comprise homophobia.

People find it difficult to prioritize forms of oppression that do not directly affect them. We often resist admitting to the privileges we access through our membership in certain "groups" — as whites, men, heterosexuals, rich people, Christians. It is easier to cite our status as victims, since it incurs little if any responsibility.

Race and sexual orientation are in many ways dissimilar, but both racism and homophobia are perpetuated by stereotyping: Black men are criminals; gays are child molesters. And both racism and homophobia blame the victim: Emmet Till shouldn't have eyeballed a white woman; Greg Love shouldn't have eyeballed another man.

Just as many white people rush to blame black victims for being brutalized by racist police, and many men question what the rape victim was doing at her rapist's hotel room anyway, some are searching for any culpability they can pin on Love, suggesting perhaps he had been sexually harassing Aaron Price, his attacker, despite any evidence.

If the act is warranted and thus not a crime, then we don't have to admit to our own biases and the power we have to enforce them.

IF A BLACK MALE STUDENT AT A mainstream college was beaten with a bat for looking at a white female student, you can bet that major black social justice organizations would be holding press conferences, marches and demonstrations.

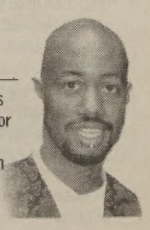
But no local or national black organizations have been denouncing the Morehouse attack. Massey recently announced that he had convened a "blue ribbon panel" to address diversity issues. There is only one openly gay participant among the handpicked panelists. Imagine how enraged blacks would be if a white college, prompted by the racist attack of a black student, assembled a panel with just one African-American to address racism.

Hopefully Morehouse and the black community at large will learn lessons from this experience. We who strive for social justice for all and not only our constituency cannot remain bound by the constraints of our comfort zones. Black people have to risk stepping into unchartered territory and look past oppression hierarchies — "your blues ain't as bad as mine" — that blur the common vision of the disenfranchised.

I was advised by a colleague to be patient with Morehouse since "they were not prepared to deal with this." Social change does not wait for us to be prepared to fight for it.

This incident is a calling and we must muster the courage to look first inward and unload the prejudice that infects us as individuals and as a society, right now. If civil rights workers had waited until black people were ready for freedom, and white people were ready to confront racism, many of us might still be riding at the back of the bus.

@ **Craig Washington** is executive director for the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center and can be reached at **cw@aglc.org**.



music ARJAN TIMMERMANS

Gleaning best from three indie CDs, **Mia Doi Todd** releases major-label album high on substance, symbolism.

Mia's metaphors

AT FIRST LISTEN, THE SONGS OF MIA Doi Todd make no sense. The lyrics are complicated, and her acoustic melodies tend to be incoherent and hard to grasp.

But then again, she never pretended to be mainstream. On the contrary, Todd demands active attention with music that is anything but coincidental.

The singer and self-taught musician recently debuted her first major label album "The Golden State" on Sony's Columbia Records. The company decided to re-record and re-arrange some of her earlier work to configure it for a wider audience. These songs appeared on her previous three indie records: "The Ewe and The Eye" (1997), "Come Out of Your Mine" (1999) and "Zeroone" (2001).

The album was produced by Mitchell Froom — who earlier worked with David Byrne and Elvis Costello — in an attempt to make Todd's complex arrangements and storytelling a bit more accessible. Todd's earthy songs and ethereal voice are unique, even though her minimalist approach bears a slight resemblance to the electro-folk of Beth Orton.

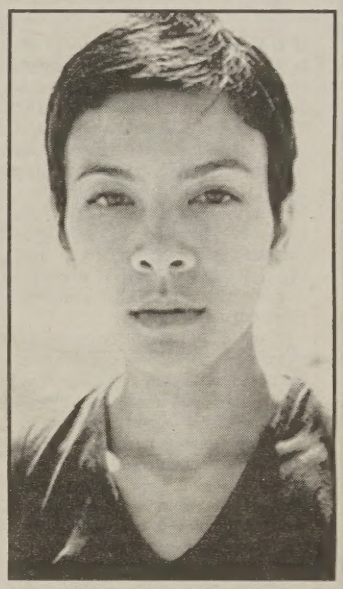
On the album, which was recorded last February in Los Angeles, Mia plays acoustic guitar, piano and keyboard. Joining her are bassist Davey Faragher, drummer Jerry Marotta, guitarist Nel Cline and Kraig Grady, who plays glockenspiel on "Hijikata."

MIA DOI TODD IS THE DAUGHTER OF a Japanese-American judge and an Irish-American sculptor. Her multi-cultural upbringing in Los Angeles fueled her interest in foreign culture and religion. She majored in East Asian Studies at Yale University, and during her time in college, she began to write songs and play the guitar. The Yalie made her first performances in clubs and coffeehouses in New Haven, Conn., New York and back at home in Los Angeles.

The album's title obviously refers to her home state. But Todd's metaphorical songwriting gives it a deeper meaning. According to the singer, "The Golden State" also refers to some sort of utopia — an ideal society with a perfect, ecstatic union of individuals.

"The Golden State descends upon the human body and mind," she explains. "It comes in our moments of clarity and heightened consciousness, when life spills open and all opposites unite and disappear."

Only using chords sparingly, Todd explicitly describes the notion of contrast and harmony on the song "Digital," when she sings: "Digital, binary system, ones and zeroes, dark versus light, yin and yang, x and y, my mother and my father made me one night."



Mia Doi Todd offers a mix of complicated songs on her new album 'The Golden State.' (Photo by Sasha Eisenman)

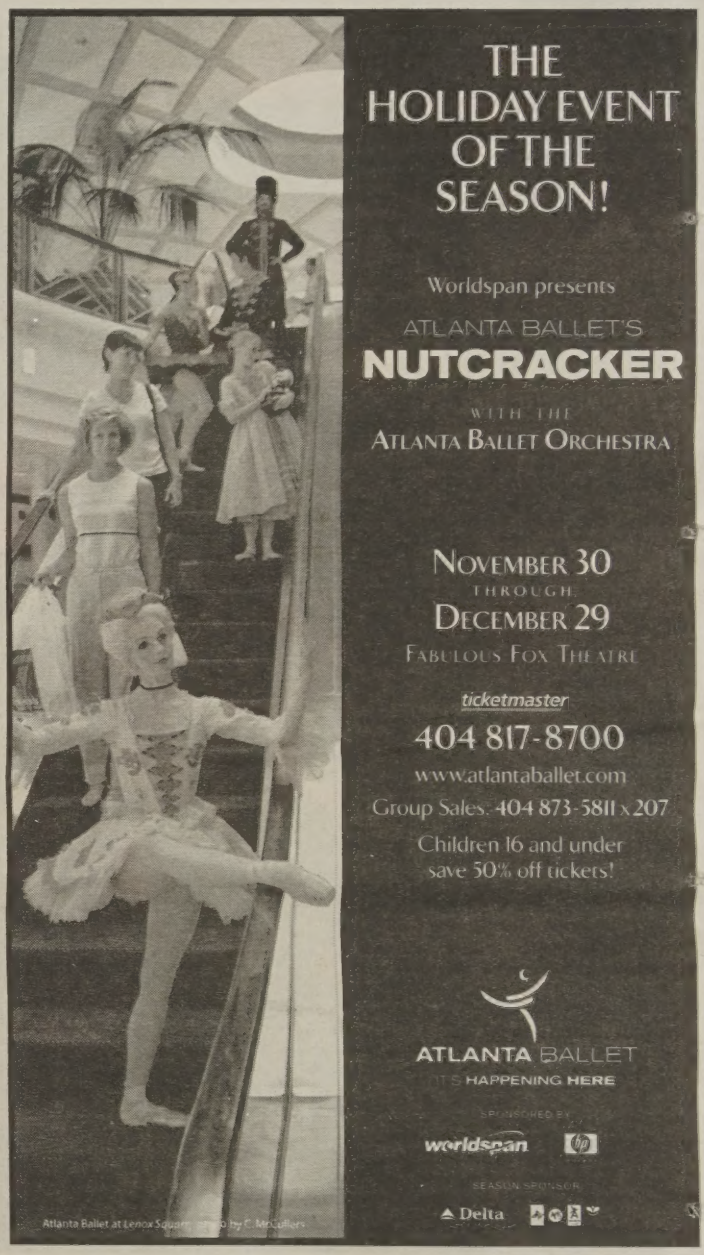
The album's most accessible song, "Autumn," describes the passing of a relationship as if it is a simple change of season: "The leaves let go, so let them go."

A bit denser are the artist's songs that cover individual freedom ("Merry Me," "Independence Day"), resistance to change ("Growing Pains") and the evocative feelings of inner turmoil in an unpredictable world ("Age of Reason").

Todd simultaneously shows vulnerability and strength in her verses. She exposes her insecurities as a female and global citizen but also takes a stand when it comes to defending her liberties.

Todd's music might be too diffuse for many, but she is scoring high marks on substance. Her work demands attention and "The Golden State" proves that she more than deserves it.

MORE INFO
Mia Doi Todd
'The Golden State'
Columbia Records, 2002
www.miadoitodd.com



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dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Damn the Thorpedo

Aussie swimmer, Olympic medalist Ian Thorpe pulls a Mike Piazza and comes out — as straight

Sexy Australian Swimmer **Ian Thorpe** sets the record, and his orientation, straight.

IF YOU LIVED IN AUSTRALIA, IT WOULD be summer and you would love swimming, because down under, swimming is as big as baseball or football in this country. **IAN THORPE**, one of Australia's hottest swimmers — in both sense of the word — has been the **MICHAEL JORDAN** of his world since the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

This year, 20-year-old Thorpe, nicknamed the Thorpedo, was a spectator at the 2002 Gay Games, which were held in the same city. But Thorpe was not there to compete, to watch his boyfriend or to check out all the Speedos.

"I mean I'm straight, so people want to claim me as part of a minority group and put labels on you and that's not what I'm about, and I don't understand why people are like that," Thorpe told Australian ABC radio. "I don't try and sound macho, with an Australian accent just for the sake of having it. I have an interest in fashion, I have interests in things most people don't label as being part of the macho male thing."

Thorpe's good looks and even better wardrobe (did we mention that he also has his own line of jewelry?) have caused major speculation, both public and private, about his sexual orientation. And he finally decided to go **MIKE PIAZZA** and address the rumors.

"You know I'm a little bit different to what most people would consider being an Australian male. That doesn't make me gay," he said.

The editors of Outsports.com, a Web site for gay sports fans and the world's premier outlet for gay sporting news, claims that after Thorpe's Gay Games appearance they were interviewed for a story in case Thorpe decided to come out. Well, he came out, but not like we're used to.

"It's perfectly cool now to be straight and have an interest in Armani fashion or pearl jewelry or **KYLIE MINOGUE** — why shouldn't it be?" said **MARCUS O'DONNELL**, editor of gay newspaper the Sydney Star Observer. "It's great that Thorpe is now confident enough to address these rumors head on."

Well, Thorpe, Dish wishes you the best of luck with the straight thing. But if you and your size 17 shoes ever change your mind, give Dish a call.

Top dogs

ATLANTA MAGAZINE'S "BEST OF Atlanta" issue, which hit stores last week, didn't forget to name several gay "winners" of note.

Southern Voice's own **MICHAEL ALVEAR** garnered kudos for his viewpoint column as "Best Dish." Though the title may not be appropriate for Alvear's content, this Dish knows it's the thought that counts.

"Sure, he offends some of the time, but we all should have a friend this funny and frank," the magazine says.

Thank goodness SoVo readers do.

Gay Marietta native **ALAN BALL** — yes, they do grow 'em gay in Cobb County, they just don't usually stay there long — has gone from the Oscar-winning "American Beauty" to the Emmy-winning "Six Feet Under." He got the magazine's nod for "Best Grim Reaper."

Piedmont Park, also known as Gay Ground Zero, was named "Best Place to Take a Pet." Gay Atlanta author **JIM GRIMSLEY'S** "Boulevard" was called "Best Novel of Sexual Awakening," and **MILT THOMAS**, the Georgia-grown gay director of "Claire," was named "Best Rising Talent."

Rounding out the Nightlife section, My Sister's Room and Blake's on the Park were named Atlanta Magazine's "Best Alternative Bars."

Atlanta Magazine

Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.

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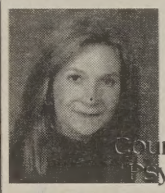

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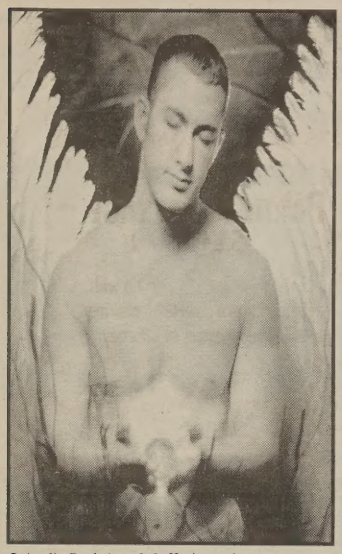


Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse hosts an opening reception for the **'Eye Candy'** series of photographs by local photographer Harold Daniels on **Thursday, Dec. 12** from 7-9 p.m. The display runs through January. 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-607-0082 or www.outwritebooks.com

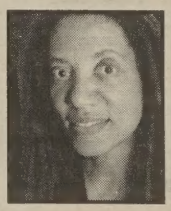
SATURDAY DEC. 7

The AIDS Awareness Committee in Macon is **Puttin' On the Ritz**, its **11th Annual Masquerade Ball** at 7 p.m. in the Macon City Auditorium. Proceeds benefit Central City AIDS Network and the AIDS Housing Program. 415 First St. Macon, GA 31201. 478-750-8080 or 800-374-2437

SUNDAY DEC. 8

A Holiday Artist's Market at Christ Covenant MCC's Davis Hall offers unique and affordable hand-crafted items by local artists like Anita Edwards, Kathy Lum and Candy Casarella from 1-4 p.m. 109 Hibernia Ave., Decatur. 404-633-8546 or www.christcovenantmcc.org

THURSDAY DEC. 12



Charis Circle, InnerLight Publishing and ZAMI present lesbian poet **Nikky Finney** at 7 p.m. at First Existentialist Congregation. Local lesbian musician Doria Roberts also performs. 470 Candler Park Dr. 404-524-0304 or www.charisbooksandmore.com

FRIDAY DEC. 13

Theatre OUTlanta, with the help of author Jod Godfrey, turns Charles Dickens' Christmas classic gay with **'A Queer Carol'** through Jan. 5 at 7 Stages back stage theatre. Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-371-0212 or www.mindspring.com/~outlanta

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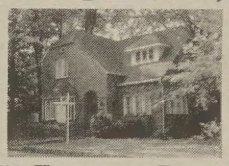

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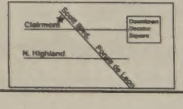

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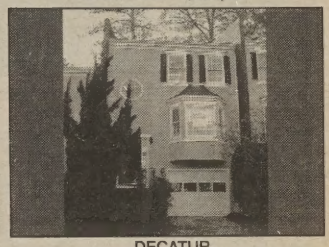

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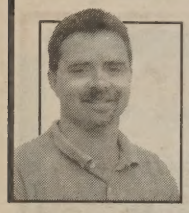

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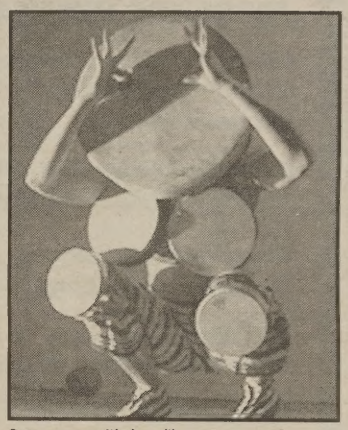
Cirque meets Stomp

WHAT WOULD YOU GET IF YOU crossed the new age mysticism of Cirque de Soleil with one of those "let's grab a broom and make noise" shows? The result might be something like Lelavision's new "Rhythm of the Landscape." Now having its world premiere at 7 Stages, the show could almost be called Cirque de "Stomp."

The Seattle-based Lelavision is the brainchild of musical inventor Ela Lamblin and choreographer Leah Mann. The two began working together in Atlanta in the early '90s, incorporating music and movement with themes like nature and spirit, before moving to the West Coast and creating their own unique kind of theater.

The two call it kinesis, a kind of performance using instruments to create physical music. The theme of "Landscape" is about the cyclical nature of the universe. But rather than thinking too heavily about the symbolism and deep meaning, it's best to just sit back and enjoy the performers and rich visuals.



In one scene with drum-like costumes, performers in 'Rhythm of the Landscape' create music with their bodies for an unusual theatrical experience. (Photo by Ela Lamblin)

"LANDSCAPE" OPENS WITH THREE performers (Lamblin, Mann and Sheli Potmesil) working their way from behind a steel bridge, their faces covered with a drum-like circular object. Miniature versions of said object are also on their knees. They move in unison across the stage, eventually making music with their bodies as images of birds fly on the horizon.

Later, a spinning volcano-like prop is placed on stage. Lamblin and Mann circle it and create a poetic, soothing music, then climb atop it like a merry-go-round, before falling inside it and working their way out.

Depending on your mood, this show can bore you silly or utterly beguile you. More often than not, "Rhythm of the Landscape" is a true one-of-a-kind. The children in the audience fidgeted at times but sat in rapt silence at some of the latter stunts.

Certainly, the production is like nothing you've probably ever seen or heard. Like "Cirque," some of the material runs the risk of being pretentious, but it ultimately proves to be a haunting and rich sensory experience.

"Landscape" ends with a literal bang. While objects hang from the ceiling in front of the trio, bungee cords also fall from the sky. At first, the cords are out of reach of the performers, until Lamblin manages to grab the ropes, connect the two women, and then himself.

Jumping into the air — in perfect choreography by Mann — the three manage to strike the chimes and create music as they rise and fall. Lamblin even hurls himself mid-air from one end of the stage to the other. The feat is both funny and daring. Don't try this at home.

AND SPEAKING OF CIRQUE DE SOLEIL, the real deal is headed back to Atlanta. The new "Varekai" — called an "explosive fusion of drama and acrobatics" — will debut in March at the Cobb Galleria.

Will gays travel to Marietta for the latest Cirque? I can't imagine they wouldn't. Those Cirque fanatics are a serious breed. I know groupies who would span the globe in a heartbeat to be part of the action, so a little bad county politics shouldn't deter the large gay following.

Elsewhere this week, "All's Well that Ends Well" runs through Sunday at the New American Shakespeare Tavern. As one of the Bard's lesser-produced works, "All's Well" stars Tavern regulars Maurice Ralston and Peter Häuenstein, as well as Joanna Daniel and Melanie Colvert.

MORE INFO

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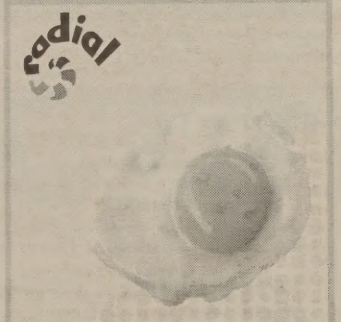

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BECAUSE I AM ABOUT TO WAX enthusiastic about Woodfire Grill, I will tell you right away that I used to work for its chef-owner Michael Tuohy, at his first restaurant, Chef's Café.

So it's impossible for me to dine at Woodfire without being recognized and treated as a friend. But I know Tuohy's disciplined approach to hospitality. And I can confidently say that in his establishment, a genuine welcome is offered equally to all.

Chef's Café is considered Atlanta's first California-contemporary restaurant, although its true sensibility was Mediterranean, rendered through an essentially French cooking technique.

Woodfire's menu, too, is in debt to Spain, France, Italy and neighboring cultures. But I'd call the cooking — which is earthy and direct, and focused on ingredients and flavor — utterly American in spirit.

Chef's had an odd location, a space meant for a coffee shop in a budget motel. But inside, it was a haven of cool civility. Woodfire has a more casual feel, but looks odd, too. It's the former Marra's, a bungalow that was expanded in a 1980s style that now seems clunky and dated.

Tuohy has added a generous rear deck, and done up the interior in a tawny palette with handcrafted accents. But unlike other recently opened restaurants in the vicinity, the place won't be winning any design awards.

It's the cooking that will leave the competition panting.

THE USER-FRIENDLY CARD STARTS with "tastes," like a bowl of marinated olives, a selection of olive oils and a revelatory couple of tender-as-ravioli little squid stuffed with smoky chorizo sausage in a putanesca-like tomato sauce. These are all $4 to $7.

"Small plates," $6 to $14, include soups and salads, many incorporating artisanal cheeses like the sensational ones from Sweet Grass Dairy down in Thomasville.

One knockout choice is fritto misto (a mixed fry) of lightly battered fresh smelts, calamari, thin onion rings and lemon slices and — this was a lucky day — explosively fresh and flavorful Georgia white shrimp. This ample plate (only $9) comes accompanied by a zesty garlic mayonnaise.

There are pizzas, cooked — you guessed it — in the wood-fired oven, which pumps a pervasive nebula of mouth-watering aromas into the room. I swooned over a pizza of duck confit, black figs, melted leeks and intense Point Reyes bleu cheese ($15).

The short list of entrees ($18 to $27) always includes a signature fish roasted on a cedar plank. The one I had was a thick slab of wild Columbia River salmon, marinated first in a garlicky, capery Mediterranean green sauce, then subtly permeated by the sharpness of the cedar. With a tomato-arugula salad, this plate was a simple stunner.

Risotto with porcini, chanterelle and mouosseron mushrooms, made heady with a sharp, salty parmigiano-reggiano ($19), is the essence of earthiness — especially when I sprang another $15 to have it paved with slices of fresh white truffle.

The only dish I sampled that left me underwhelmed was an entrée of roasted daurade (sea bream). The fish is fine, but lacks the punch of other dishes at Woodfire. Perhaps it simply paled next to that risotto, but the roasted fingerling potatoes that come with it were definitely undercooked.

In addition to sweets, a cheese course is offered as dessert (three for $9, five for $14). This sounds totally simple, but it's not quite: Canary Islands majorero (an aged goat cheese), for instance, comes rubbed with paprika. A Sonoma County Vella dry jack is doused with olive oil and sprinkled with cocoa powder.

Surprising, maybe. But all about flavor.

It's possible to spend a lot of money at Woodfire, but also possible to put together a satisfying, top-quality meal cheaply. There are many interesting wines in the $25 to $45 range, too.

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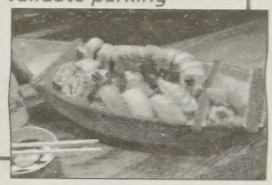

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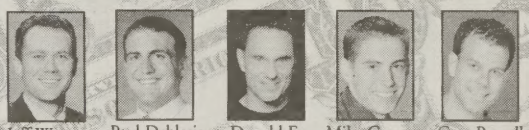

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Options are plentiful for holiday revelers

HOLIDAYS, continued from **Page 33**

renditions of "Nutcracker" — including the quintessential Atlanta Ballet presentation plus that troupe's alternative show "Nutty Nutcracker" — the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra hosts several holiday productions, including a gospel concert and the classic Handel's Messiah.

For those who'd rather rock, Georgia-grown lesbian band the Indigo Girls hosts several other gay favorites at a holiday concert Dec. 18 at the Tabernacle.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, GAY GROUPS in metro Atlanta get festive for the holidays. Winter concerts from the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus and the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus are on tap, as are parties from nearly every gay business group and social set.

And for those who tout a "reason for the season," gay and gay-friendly spiritual groups are also laying out special events.

Decorations at Callanwolde Mansion are a don't-miss stop on any holiday tour. (Photo by Michelle Sienkiewicz)

Congregation Bet Haverim celebrates the end of Hanukah Friday, Dec. 6, with a party after their regular Sabbat service, and a women's group at Charis Books & More plans a Solstice commemoration. The Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative holds a holiday remembrance of lost loved ones next week.

Christian-based gay congregations gather on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for worship. But before that, interested celebrants can find arts fairs, concerts, tree trimmings, live nativities and potluck dinners.

The following schedule offers a taste of the opportunities that abound to celebrate the holidays. Starred events are gay or of particular gay interest. If your favorite group isn't listed, contact them directly for event schedules.

(Next week: Holiday theater from the very gay to more traditional fare.)

Holiday event schedule

LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS

Atlanta Christmas Parade
Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Starts at Centennial Olympic Park,
East on Marietta Street,
North on Peachtree Street
to W. Peachtree Street

Festival of Trees
Dec. 7, 8 and 9, Noon to 6 p.m.
Georgia World Congress Center
285 International Blvd.
404-325-6635
Tickets $10

Christmas House
Daily through Dec. 8
Collinfield Hall
5585 Mount Vernon
Parkway, NW
404-733-4620

Orchid Lights, Orchid Nights
Dec. 11 and 18, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Atlanta Botanical Gardens
1345 Piedmont Ave., NE
Tickets $15

Gingerbread Christmas
Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Smith Plantation
935 Alpharetta St.
Roswell, GA 30075
770-641-3978
$5, reservations required

'Southern Christmas'
Through Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
to 10 p.m.
Stone Mountain Park
Highway 78 East, Exit 8
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
770-498-5690
Tickets $10

Christmas at Callanwolde
Through Dec. 15
Callanwolde Fine Arts Center
980 Briarcliff Road, NE
404-872-5338
www.callanwolde.org
Tickets $12

Holiday in Lights & Ice skating rink
Through Jan. 5, weeknights and weekend days
Centennial Olympic Park
Techwood Drive at
International Blvd.
Lights free, skating $7

'Magical Nights of Lights'
Through December, 5 p.m.
to 10 p.m.
Lake Lanier Islands
770-932-7200
www.LakeLanierIslands.com
$25 car, $35 van, $100 bus

'Fantasy in Lights'
Through Dec. 28
Callaway Gardens
800-225-5292
www.CallawayGardens.com
Tickets $12 person

CONCERTS

***Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus**
Dec. 7, 8 p.m.
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
1790 Lavista Road
770-438-5823

Gospel Christmas
All-Atlanta Choir and Atlanta Symphony
Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Symphony Hall
1280 Peachtree St.
404-733-4200
Tickets $12-$36

Atlanta Symphony holiday concert
Dec. 8, 15
Symphony Hall
Tickets $12-36

***Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus**
Dec. 12-14, 8 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Philip
2744 Peachtree Road, NW
404- 320-1030

***Indigo Girls holiday concert**
w/ special guests
Dec. 18, 8 p.m.
The Tabernacle
152 Luckie St., NW
404-659-9022
Tickets $36.50

Handel's Messiah
Dec. 19, 8 p.m.
Atlanta Symphony
Symphony Hall
Tickets $12-36

ARTS

***Outside the Lines Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair**
Dec. 6, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
First Existentialist Congregation
470 Candler Park Drive
404-378-5570
http://www.mindspring.com/-e-cong/

Bing Crosby, Johnny Mathis...the **Indigo Girls**? Though it's not known whether the lesbian duo will perform holiday classics like 'White Christmas,' they do offer a holiday concert, Dec. 18 at the Tabernacle.

***Holiday Artists Market**
Dec. 8, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Christ Covenant MCC
109 Hibernia Ave.
www.christcovenantmcc.org

Inventing Santa: Art & Advertising
Through Jan. 5
High Museum
1283 Peachtree St., NE
404-733-4400

PARTIES

***Black & White Men Together Christmas party and potluck**
Dec. 7, 7:30 pm
404.892.BWMT
http://www.geocities.com/BWMTatlanta

***Greater Atlanta Business Coalition Holiday Party & Silent Auction**
Dec. 11, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Decatur First Bank
1120 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-4258
Members, $15, Guests, $20

***Swa-Ra Holiday Happy Hour**
Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Blake's on the Park
227 10th St., NE
404-892-5786

***Christmas dinner**
Dec. 25, Noon to 4 p.m.
Charis Books & More
1189 Euclid, NE
404-524-0304
www.chariscircle.org

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL

***Shabat Service and Hanukah Party**
Dec. 6, 6:30
Congregation Bet Haverim
Atlanta Friends Meeting House
701 W. Howard Ave.
404-607-0054

***Potluck dinner and tree trimming**
Dec. 8, after 11 a.m.
church service
First MCC of Atlanta
1379 Tullie Road
404-325-4143

***Holiday remembrance ritual**
Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative
1530 DeKalb Ave,
Suite A
404-688-2524
www.alci.org

***'Postcards from Home' Holiday concert and silent auction**
Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
First MCC of Atlanta

***GAIA women's Solstice celebration**
Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
Charis Books & More
404-524-0304
www.chariscircle.org

***All Saints MCC**
2352 Bolton Road, NW
404-605-7140

***Christ Covenant MCC**
109 Hibernia Ave.
404-373-2933

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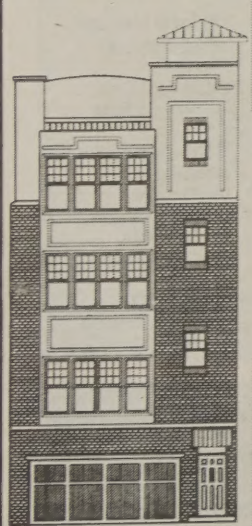
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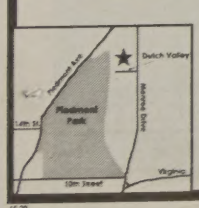

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What to pitch and what to keep becomes storage nightmare that begs **'place for everything and everything in its place.'**

The hidden menace

Saving precious memories is fine, but tossing out the junk so you can find the good stuff will keep storage situations manageable.

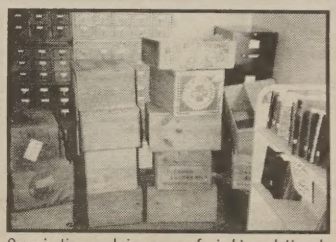
MOVING HAS BEEN A REVELATION. Not only am I finding things that have been missing for three years, I'm rediscovering clothes that I forgot and getting a chance to throw out a lot of others.

I've also discovered something new about combining two households into one. The worst is not the challenge of whose sofa goes where; it's not the inevitable disagreement about wall coverings or window treatments; it's not even the challenge of combining all the pots, pans, dishes and multiple can-openers.

Those are a Sunday picnic compared to the true, hidden menace.

What I do mean is the attic, the backs and top shelves of closets, the space under the stairs, the little corners behind and under furniture where things that we never use and can't bring ourselves to throw away pile up without our quite realizing it.

Going through one household full of those places and sorting out and throwing away most of that "indispensable" trash is an ordeal in itself. But multiply it by two, and then multiply by two the amount of things that end up being kept and moved, and there's a real challenge.



Organization can bring peace of mind to a cluttered closet.

THE TEDIUM OF SORTING IS BAD enough, but try condensing and combining two sets of Christmas decorations, two collections of sweaters, two monumental piles of photo albums, old LP's and afghans, and it becomes a job that would make an alcoholic out of a tea-toting Baptist.

Somewhere in my impressionable years, I think I read too many stories about adventures in cluttered attics and was way too impressed with Walt Disney sitting in front of that bookcase containing every National Geographic ever published.

My spare room has so far disgorged every issue of National Geographic since about 1969, two useless modern armchairs, three decades of Gourmet Magazine, six blankets, two filing cabinets, a dozen old pictures with frames and two cartons of my own cookbooks. And it still looks like an attic with a real adventure lurking in its corners.

In the spirit of "Do as I say, not as I do," let me say that I've learned a few things from this ordeal — and no, it is not "never save anything at all."

But my advice can be encapsulated in an old cliché: a place for everything and everything in its place.

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO PREVENT a secret mess like mine is to pretend that you don't have the storage space. Whether you do or not, approach saving things in that light and consider whether you need all those old gift boxes, old sweaters and outdated magazines.

If you can pretend that there's no place to put it, then those out-of-sight places that you do have will get used for things that you really value and need to keep, things that you won't have to dig through a pile of trash to find.

If items in storage will actually be used occasionally, the very act of finding them will help you keep those secret places organized and neat.

The next step, of course, is to actually keeping them orderly and neat. Find a system that works for you and stick to it. If gift boxes go on the top shelf of the hall linen closet, make it your rule to store nothing but gift boxes in that spot.

And conversely, when that shelf is full, don't start saving gift boxes anywhere else. Sort through them and pitch the ones you think you won't need again or the ones you've had for a year without using. Don't start a second cache where the old blankets are stored.

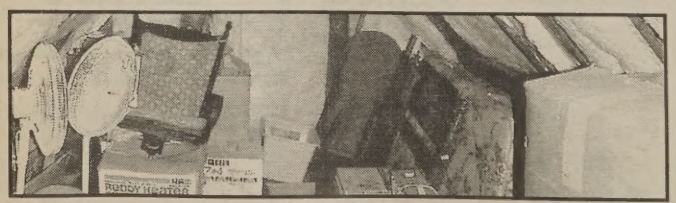
Of course, some things will be hard to get rid of, but try to be realistic. If you have family heirlooms stored away, things that you never look at — or worse, that you don't even want to look at — then consider whether you need to keep them at all. You don't have to pitch them; maybe someone else in the family would not only want them, but might actually enjoy using them instead of hiding them in the attic.

A friend of mine, reacting perhaps to memories of her pack-rat mother and husband, has a stern rule to which she never makes an exception: If she hasn't used something for six months, it goes.

Her rule may seem a little extreme, but think about it: I've got things lying around that haven't seen the light of day in three years. What's worse, I didn't even use them in the 14 years that they lay on the top shelves of the house I lived in before.

Do I need to keep moving cartons of things I never even look at? No. From now on, there will be a place for everything.

And sometimes, that place will be the garbage.



Hiding boxes that you haven't opened for years and miscellaneous junk just makes for nightmares and more work later.

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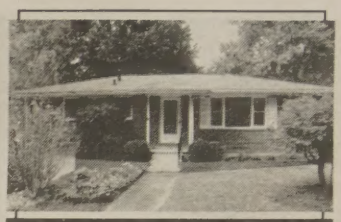

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Sarcastic response to a little image polish should **first examine internal motivations** and hidden insecurities.

Get over yourself

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I was delighted to read your advice to Eliza, the diesel dyke who was seeking training in being more socially presentable as a female.

Butches want to be femmes now? Great news! What with Republicans and right-wingers in control of the government, it's time queers relearn conformity and remember how to adopt the behavior and thinking of mainstream heterosexuals.

Just as before pride, "gay culture" should remain innocuous and homo identity should mimic that of straight people to every possible extent. And there's no stopping this trend once it catches on again.

For girl-challenged lesbians, I hope Ms. Behavior will offer pointers on how to blow a straight man, insert a diaphragm, throw like a girl and serve a nice casserole. Anything to enable unacceptably boyish dykes to act, look and ultimately feel, feminine.

Similarly, faggots would benefit from help in mimicking traditional man-type behaviors like betting on hockey, grabbing the asses of female co-workers, operating a forklift and fucking interns with Macanudo cigars.

So long to gender-bending individualism for members of sexual minority groups. The gay revolution has come a long way!

— My Fair Lezzie

Dear My Fair Lezzie:

There is no need to get your Joe Boxers in a twist, Missy. Not all dykes are so insecure about their butchness that they can't peel off the battered old leather jackets and spike bracelets and boots to slip into something new — and perhaps even dainty — for a change of pace. But clearly, this notion leaves you aghast.

Perhaps it is because you think gay pride is about being a poster child for counterculture, rather than being yourself.

Queers, who have long-appreciated the joys of dressing up and dressing down, are hardly in danger of extinguishing themselves by trying on a new costume. Do you think that a lesbian who wears a silky skirt will suddenly lose her ability to change a tire or toss a football or shout "Yo!" when an SUV full of her friends drives by?

But if the idea of Ms. Behavior channeling Henrietta Higgins for a bit of girl talk about changing clothes or style leaves you trembling in your Timberlands, you are hereby excused from the dressing room.

And, by the way, speaking for proud gay male forklift operators everywhere, as well as cooking-savvy lesbians who can bake a killer casserole — all of whom will probably inundate Ms. Behavior with barrels of complaining e-mail — your tired old stereotyping of homosexuals is also excused.

P.S. If you'd really like pointers on blow jobs or inserting a diaphragm, Ms. Behavior will have to charge extra.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

Can a lesbian and a bisexual woman be friends after having a passionate relationship?

I've decided to be friends with this bisexual woman until she can figure out what she wants. She has children, and I feel that she is stuck in the fantasy of her children having a father figure even if her own needs are not fully being met.

So to play it safe with my own heart, being friends with her and just loving her at a distance is all I can do for now. Yes, I am hoping she will rediscover her true feelings for me. But until then, I've decided on no intimacy. What do you think? Am I wasting away as my heart is frozen in time?

— Wasting Away

Dear Wasting Away:

Your signature suggests that you've answered your own question: It doesn't sound like you have enough distance from your bisexual "friend" to protect your heart.

Get out of your friend's head. Don't worry about what fantasy she's stuck in, and don't wait for her to figure out what she wants. That might take a long time, particularly if you're hanging out in the background, hoping she'll rediscover her feelings for you.

Your physical presence won't make her more likely to realize that she wants you. And just resisting the temptation to have sex with one another is probably not enough of a change to create the distance that you both need now.

Besides, if your heart is "frozen in time," it won't necessarily be available for the big thaw if a real and wonderful lesbian shows up, ready for a relationship with you.

Meryl Cohn can be reached at msbehavior@aol.com.

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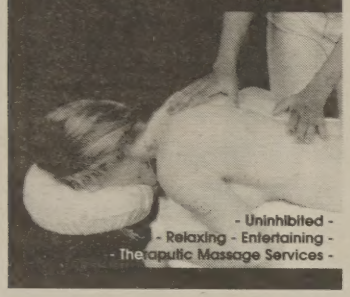
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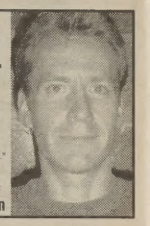

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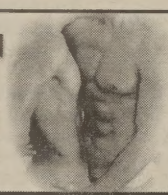
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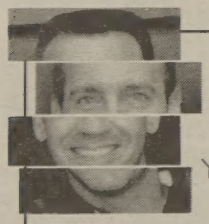
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More men report having gay sex, report shows

NEW YORK — A recent nationwide survey shows that a larger proportion of men say they are having sex with other men than in the 1980s, although whether that trend stems from an increase in same-sex activity or an increased willingness to report it remains unclear, according to Reuters Health. "Male-to-male sex is still a sensitive, stigmatized behavior, and ... is likely to be underreported to some unknown degree. Even though these recent estimates are somewhat higher than other surveys, they probably are still low," said Dr. John E. Anderson, a researcher at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta and the co-author of the report. Surveys collected since 1996 showed between 3.1 percent and 3.7 percent of men reported having sex with another man during the past year. This is a sizeable jump from 1988 estimates of between 1.7 percent and 2 percent, the report noted. The results from the current study are published in the November issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Kramer lends name to fight against company over HIV drug

AIDS activist **Larry Kramer** is supporting efforts to strip GlaxoSmithKline of the patent it holds on the successful AIDS drug AZT. (Photo by AP)

LOS ANGELES — Larry Kramer, the award-winning playwright and ACT UP founder, lent his voice in support of a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the patent for AZT, the first AIDS drug. London-based GlaxoSmithKline holds the patent for the drug, which was initially created in 1964 in the U.S. as a possible cancer drug, and first shown to be effective against HIV by NIH researchers in the mid 1980s. "It is evil to possess a drug that you don't own and which can save lives and then deny it to the very dying people who need it," Kramer said. The lawsuit, brought by U.S-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation and supported by a coalition of more than 500 groups, seeks to invalidate GlaxoSmithKline's U.S. patent on AZT and other subsequent HIV drugs that include AZT as a component. Kramer, who is HIV-positive and 67, had a liver transplant last December, a unique procedure for people with the disease.

Powell urges ambassadors on leadership for AIDS fight

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell invited the entire diplomatic corps to the State Department Dec. 3 to deliver a message he hopes they will relay to their governments: Political leadership is an essential component in the struggle against HIV/AIDS, according to the Associated Press. It is believed to be the first time all ambassadors from governments accredited in Washington have gathered to hear a message on a public health issue, says Jack Chow, who serves as the U.S. ambassador on the AIDS issue. "We know that national political leaders who are willing to speak out and commit their governments to a course of constructive action in combination with public health investment can make a difference," Chow said. There are 42 million cases of AIDS worldwide.

Women now account for half of HIV cases, UN says

LONDON — For the first time in the 20-year history of the AIDS epidemic, as many women as men are infected with HIV, a United Nations report says. The report, made public last week, paints a dismal picture of a disease invading regions of the globe where it had for many years tricked experts into believing some populations might be less susceptible, or even immune, to infection, according to the Associated Press. "It's once more a sad story," said Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the U.N. AIDS agency. The virus is spreading most rapidly in Eastern Europe, where nearly every country is experiencing a major outbreak. It has also marched swiftly across Central Asia and into China. Piot said the shift toward women will ultimately exacerbate the spread of HIV, because they can spread it not only through sex, but also through nursing and childbirth.

Spanish-language brochure on hepatitis released by gay health group

SAN FRANCISCO — The Gay & Lesbian Medical Association created a Spanish-language hepatitis brochure targeting men who have sex with men to boost awareness of the disease. A recent GLMA survey shows that of 30 cities the organization visited, San Antonio scored the lowest in hepatitis awareness in gay and bisexual men, a population at the greatest risk. "We've been successful with our national campaign," said GLMA President Kenneth A. Haller, Jr. "But one piece was missing. Outreach in the non-English speaking areas of the U.S. is essential if we are to successfully reduce the transmission of hepatitis A and B among [men who have sex with men]. Now we have the ability to communicate to a community that might not otherwise have access to this information." Physicians, medical centers, public health departments and others may request both the English and Spanish versions of the brochure by logging on to the GLMA Web site at www.glma.org. The brochure was funded by drug company GlaxoSmithKline.

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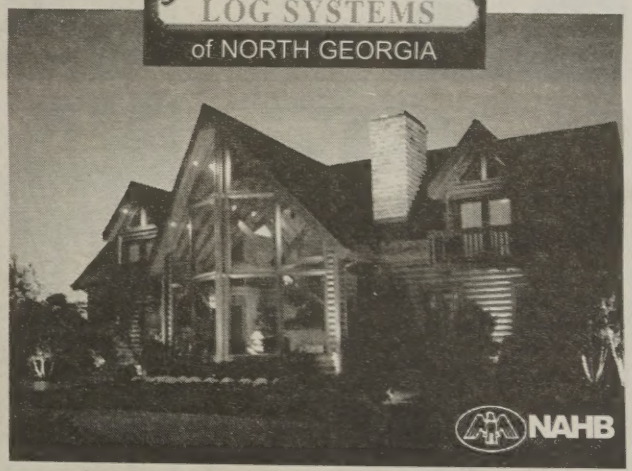

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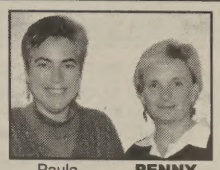

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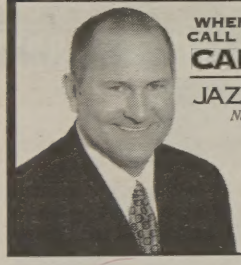

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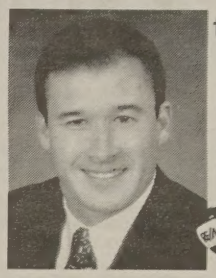

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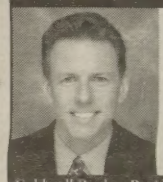

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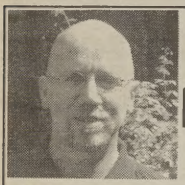

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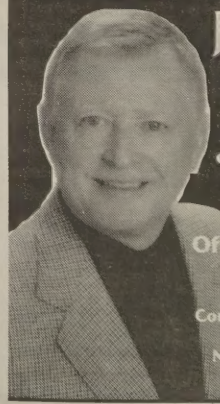

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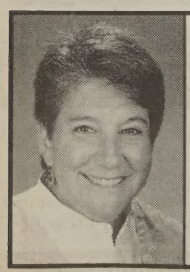

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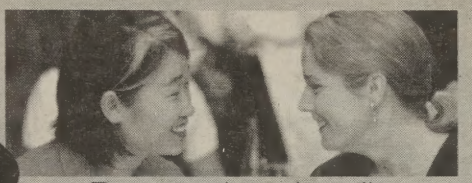

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Men Seeking Men

SEEKING ROMANCE
SBPM, 29, 6'1", 230lbs, looking for GPM, 25-35, who enjoys the simple things in life, wants friendship, possible romance. ☎7133

SEEKING COMPANION
GBM, 32, 5'9", 155lbs, tone, slender build, very attractive, professional, discreet, seeks GBM for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7080

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

LOOKING FOR FUN
Mature GWM seeks other males for fun, pleasure and friendship. Let's get together, call now. Atlanta. ☎5335

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
WM, 44, 5'8", 155lbs, brown/brown, moustache, HIV+ but healthy, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, gardening. Hoping to meet someone, 38-45, who has similar interests and qualities. Griffin ☎7026

CHRISTIAN BEAR
SWGM, 6'1", 240lbs, totally masculine football player from Alabama. Seeking slim to medium build white male, 20's - 30's, for serious Christian relationship. Serious inquiries only. Leave latest time to call. ☎6775

CALLING ALL BODY-BUILDERS
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 38, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks GWM body builder for friendship, cuddling, possibly, more. Show off those muscles for your number one fan! Atlanta ☎4939

LOOKING FOR LOVE
BM, 37, 6', 175lbs, medium build, wears glasses, HIV+, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking honest, outgoing man for dating, maybe more. Atlanta ☎6688

NON-SCENE
SWPM, 27, 6'1", 180lbs, blond/blue, not into bar or club scene, enjoys movies and dining out. Seeking honest, simple GM for honest, committed, monogamous relationship. Douglasville ☎6625

YOUNG WHITE COUPLE
one is 25, blond/blue, 175lbs, the other is 34, blondish-brown/green, looking for masculine, GWM, who is fun and outgoing, for LTR Atlanta ☎6899

AUSSIE WANTED
GWM, 37, 5'8", 165lbs, cute, sandy blonde/green, nice build, enjoys outdoor activities, tennis, work outs, traveling. Seeking guy from "down under". Are you out there? Atlanta ☎6871

SERIOUS
GBM, 41, 6'2", 185lbs, slender build, reddish-brown complexion, seeks GBM for friendship, leading to LTR. Decatur ☎6851

HEART TO HEART
GWM, 40s, 6', attractive, masculine, romantic, professional, non-scene, in search of handsome, similar GWM for monogamous relationship. Atlanta ☎6283

COULD THIS BE YOU?
GWM, 40, 6'3", 175lbs, D/D-free, N/S, not bar type, seeks same in WM, 30-45, H/W proportionate, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6317

SEEKING OUTSTANDING MEN
WM, 36, 6'1", slender, handsome, quiet, enjoys BBC America, physical labor. Seeking man, any culture, color, 35-55. Masculine, bisexual a plus. White collar; nice. Blue collar; sexy. West Central Area. Buena Vista ☎7015

NEVER BEEN KISSED
GBM, 28, 6', 235lbs, enjoys movies and bowling. Seeking SBM, 22-40 for dating maybe more. Atlanta ☎6779

SEEKING THE SAME
SM, 34, 6'2", 200lbs, brown-blond/hazel, HIV+, seeks another HIV+ male, under 6', slender/average build, who likes shopping, travel, Sci Fi movies, cooking. Atlanta ☎6977

LET'S DANCE TOGETHER
Very attractive SWF, 46, 5'3", 95lbs, N/S, slender, dark auburn hair, green eyes, loves dancing, movies, travel. Seeking trim SWM, 40-50, 5'8"+. Stone Mountain ☎6895

TALL AND SEXY
Attractive SBM, 34, 6'1", 185lbs, college graduate, seeks spiritually-grounded, soul-oriented man to share my interests with. ☎7131

HIBERNATION MATE
Bear GWM, medium build, seeks hairy and husky WM, 45-55, for hibernation. HIV- only. Usual interests. Prefer south side or east side metro Atlanta buddy. ☎7105

MAN ABOUT THE SOUTHSIDE
Seeking Southside GW friend, 40-55, slim/average, for hanging out. Into sports, movies, the arts, nature, dining out. Not into bars, smoking, drugs, excess drinking. Let's hook up and have fun. Stockbridge ☎6812

SOMETHING REAL
SBM, 43, 260lbs, black/brown, a little shy, intelligent, outgoing, honest, caring, enjoys movies, music, cooking, basketball, reading, travel, much more. Seeking someone who honestly wants to form a bond, more? ☎7079

TIRED OF BEING ALONE
Mature GWM, 5'8", 145lbs, blond/blue, N/S, on North side, seeks stable, masculine, fit GWM, 35-55, for dating, possible LTR. Prefer 6' or under, H/W proportionate. Love travel, movies, dining out. Duluth ☎6901

Been Glanced?

KEN THE BODYBUILDER
Received your voice mail response to my ad, but you didn't leave any way for me to contact you. Would love to talk. Please leave me your contact info! Atlanta ☎6248

ATTORNEY AT CAR WASH
Briar Cliff Rd., 11/2, you: red Atlanta cap, gray Passat, me: tan cap, black truck. Thought you were wonderful, would love to see you again, even if just as friends. Decatur ☎7041

OUTRIGHT BOOKS
I met Labor day, we did not exchange phone numbers, we exchanged glances, please respond if this is you. Athens ☎6939

PIEDMONT PARK 11/9
You: medium height, short dark hair, black pullover shirt. Me: bearish, short graying hair, glasses, navy polo shirt, khakis. We crossed the bridge, exchanged looks, I would like to talk. Smyrna ☎7070

PHIPPS IN THE RAIN
10/28, parking lot at Phipps. You: wbeelchair, blonde, amputee, beautiful smile. Me: crewcut, hard body, white shirt, jeans. We spoke. Started pouring rain, had to run. Call and let's talk. Atlanta ☎7014

COLOSSEUM
David, my name is Jamie. We met at Augusta Colosseum - you were on business. You called my sister but didn't leave message. Please call so I can get in touch. Thanks. ☎6661

JACKSONVILLE
Tuesday afternoon in jacuzzi. You: in town on business. Me: sad you don't live here. Please call. Saint Augustine ☎7106

JUST ME
Serious SWM, 54, 5'8", 160lbs, lives in North Georgia Mountains. Seeking passionate, sincere, honest man. Cleveland ☎7125

SEEK SOMEONE SPECIAL
BM, 5'8", 274lbs, brown eyes, student, likes dining out, cooking, hanging with friends, bowling, volunteering, relaxing at home. Seeking down-to-earth, independent man for friendship first, maybe LTR. ☎7081

SANE, SINGLE. SEXY
40-something, health-conscious, sharp with a good sense of humor, stable, and everything else that's good. Atlanta ☎6949

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Down-to-earth, honest, attractive, shy SBM, 21, 5'10", 165lbs, black/brown, loves amusement parks, reading, cuddling, photography, videos, shopping, movies. Seeking down-to-earth, outgoing SWM, 18-30, for friendship, warm, loving LTR. Macon ☎5511

HOME-MAKER
GBM, late 30's Androgynous-looking bottom, HIV+ and very-healthy, loves house-work, cooking, cleaning, ironing, and a barber. Seeks average guy, top, who needs love. Race unimportant. Atlanta ☎6810

PICKY ... AND PROUD OF IT
Shy, atypically typical, not lookin' anywhere near 40, 6'1", 157lbs, amusing, versatile/bottom, HIV-GWM who likes books, art, conversation, most of the human species, etc. Seeking someone to love. Conyers ☎7068

MASCULINE TOP - MIDTOWN
GWM, 49, 5'8", 150lbs, hairy, goatee, HIV+, great shape, enjoys movies, dining, travel, quiet times, sports. Seeking non-smoking GWM, under 45, in shape, for dating, romance, LTR. Loves kissing, cuddling. Atlanta ☎7043

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

SEARCHING TO FIND
GBM, 40, 5'11", 215lbs, brown eyes, HIV, healthy, loves cooking, movies, walking, etc. Seeking average guy, top, for some fun, maybe more. South side. ☎7045

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎5326

SEEKING PARTNER
GWM, 48, 5'11", 200lbs, balding brown/blue, salt-n-pepper beard/moustache, HIV+, financially/emotionally stable, seeks secure, stable, goal-oriented guy for romance, friendship, and possibly more. Roswell ☎7053

SEEKING THE REAL THING
Down-to-earth SWPM, sincere, good-looking, HIV+, N/S, N/D, seeks same for dating, friendship, possible LTR. Me: 5'10", 175lbs, brown/blue, H/W proportionate. Enjoys movies, walks dinners out, water sports, quiet times. Peachtree City ☎6629

AM I THE ONE?
GWM, 22, 5'10", black/brown, good-looking, nice, outgoing, seeks GM with similar qualities, for fun, dining out, shopping, possible LTR. Gracewood ☎6387

CARING SWM...
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7038

SEEKING BLACK AND SEXY
SWM, 5'9", 170lbs, enjoys camping, singing, dancing, quiet evenings at home. Seeking BM, with similar interests, for friendship, or personal, private LTR. Athens ☎5877

EASYGOING GUY IN...
South Carolina. GWM, 40, 5'11", 155lbs, slender build, brow/blue-green, clean-cut, HIV+, enjoys travel, outdoors, photography, being at home, music, sports, more. Seeking quiet GW/HM, HIV+, for dating first, possible LTR. Goose Creek ☎7024

ATYPICAL LIFESTYLE
Loving, handsome GWM, 50, enjoys homelife, cooking, movies, dining out, pets. Seeking SHM, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6866

HANDSOME SWM SEEKS SAME
SWM, 36, 5'10", 168lbs, seeks similar SWM, for friendship or more. No disappointment here, looking for the same. Atlanta area. Macon ☎6714

SEEKS MR. RIGHT
SM, 6', 190lbs, brown/blue, average build, retired, big computer buff, interested in music. Looking for a quiet man for friendship, companionship, possibly more. Savannah ☎7023

YOUNG & SEARCHING
Male, 18, 5'8", 140lbs, gray-blue eyes, disease-free, college student, very outgoing, music lover, seeks an outgoing, nice man, for friendship, dating, and possibly more. Decatur ☎7001

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC GUY
Handsome, romantic, laid-back GWM, 41, 6', 220lbs, HIV+, new to area, looking for friends, dating, relationship. Enjoy travel, outdoors, camping, cultural events, movies, cooking, spontaneous fun. Let's hang out. Athens. Winterville ☎6777

HAPPY IN RED
This male, 6'1", nurse, loves making people happy, sewing, and watching sports. Seeking another homebody for serious relationship. Stone Mountain ☎6997

TOTAL TOP
GWM, 45, 6', 175lbs, blond/blue, muscular, stable, healthy HIV+, seeks same in Atlanta. I'm waiting! ☎6808

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎6976

PLAYFUL AND SERIOUS
Masculine, attractive, well-educated, in-shape, HIV- SWM, 51, 6'1", 175lbs, seeks similar/different friend, 30-50, to pursue a life of both body and mind, home and travel, quiet walks, and passionate talks. Atlanta ☎6927

STILL 48 (30S LOOKING)
Sexy, attractive BM, 5'7", 185lbs, masculine top, well-built, caring, passionate, loving, loves dancing, dining, and the arts. Seeking attractive black, Asian, Latin, white with flavor, masculine bottoms. No smokers/drugs/drama. Atlanta ☎6776

FREAK
Closeted male, 49, 6'1", 235lbs, salt-n-pepper/blue, mustache, loves pool, bowling, and hiking. Seeking a male, top, full of humor and honesty. Lithia Springs ☎6897

MASCULINE TOP 4 BOTTOM
WM, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/brown, mustache, 39, loves life, camping, nature. Seeking similar for soul mate. Try me. Fayetteville ☎6595

CARING MALE SEEKS SAME
College student, 19, 5'9", 155lbs, cropped blond/blue, of Irish descent, sociology major, no children or pets. Seeking laid-back, level-headed guy for casual dating, possibly more. Cartersville ☎6868

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- ☐ Just Friends
- ☐ TV/TS

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To listen and respond, call
1-900-226-6235
Call costs $2.29 per minute. Must be 18+

With your credit card, call
1-800-982-6829

WANTED: REAL NICE GUY
GWM, slave to work, seeks really nice guy, 30-45, to unwind with. Into sports-watching, movies, dinner, etc. I'm 46, 5'9", 170lbs, D/D-free, N/S. You too! NW Metro a plus! Kennesaw ☎6843

MODERATION
GWM, 39 yrs, 6'1", great shape, curly hair, blue, HIV+, healthy, non tobacco, not into late night scene. Seeking secure guy for dinners, dating, romance, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎5512

LOOKING FOR LTR
Me: BiBM, 21, 5'9", toned build, light-skinned, bottom, masculine. You: cute, attractive, good body build, top, masculine. I enjoy anything fun and love to try new things. Decatur ☎7012

Women Seeking Women

LONELY MOM
GBF, 30, 5'7", great laugh, likes reading, going to movies, going out and enjoying life. Seeking fun-loving, adventurous GBF for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6950

SNUGGLE WITH ME...
in the mountains. SWF, 43, 5'4", 139lbs, blondish-brown/blue, hopeful romantic, spontaneous and light-hearted, but also deep, thoughtful, and kind, seeks SWF who wants personal wholeness and growth. Jasper ☎7144

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Female, 27, ' 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎7098

NO...
false advertising here! Fun, outgoing, honest, intelligent, feminine GWPF, 32, seeks GWF for meaningful friendship first, possible LTR. Love the fall, walks, great conversation, and laughing. Smokers ok. Tucker ☎6840

WORTH A TRY
SWF, 43, graying/blue, soft butch, seeks same. Are you 35-50, stable, drug-free, N/S, can you make me laugh, make me think? I'm sincere are you? Its worth a try. Jonesboro ☎6873

MATURE SOPHISTICATE
BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎7104

WAITING TO EXHALE
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎6870

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GWF, 27, 130lbs, brown/brown, cute, seeks very cute, athletic, feminine female to enjoy the outdoors and life. Thomasville ☎6937

SOMEONE JUST FOR ME
BPF seeks beautiful soft butch, 35+, N/Drugs, N/S, mentally/spiritually/financially centered. Character is important. Race is not. Stone Mountain ☎6638

NO GAMES, JUST SINCERITY
Soft, butch GWF, 35, seeks LTR with a kindred spirit, a special woman, 30+, who likes scary movies, sushi. Must believe that romance never ends, and cuddling springs eternal. Decator Atlanta ☎5901

OLDER WISER LESBIANS
Can we start a support/social group for the above in North Fulton County? Is anyone out there? If interested and would like to get involved, please call. Alpharetta ☎7072

SPECIAL LADY SOUGHT
Female, 44, 5'7", 175lbs, with MS, looking for a special lady to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! Covington ☎6773

SEEKING SOMEONE TO LOVE
BBW GF, 32, HIV+, romantic, laid-back, seeks same in GF, for mutual admiration and love. Serious inquiries only. Atlanta ☎6865

2 GOOD 2 B LOOKING 4 LOVE
42-year-old BF, independent, healthy, and open-minded, forgot how to look for a date so call before x-mas. Atlanta ☎7044

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SENSE OF HUMOR
SF, 38, 5'2", mother, lives life one day at a time, likes being at home, television, playing cards, conversation. Seeking a female with the same interests. ☎7094

BEAUTY SEEKING BEAUTY
SF, 5'3", 150lbs, black/brown, vegetarian, enjoys spending time with my two sons, watching sports, reading, being active. Seeking a woman for casual dating that may grow into something strong. Smyrna ☎6952

DON'T GIVE UP
Very attractive, successful, intelligent, warm and caring, young-looking, feminine 40 year-old SWPF seeks similar for exclusive relationship. N/S, N/Drugs. Canton/Roswell. ☎5107

FALL FOR ME THIS FALL!
GWF, 42, 5'2", 135lbs, feminine, pretty, and unique, enjoys hanging out, clubbing, exercise, working out, tanning at the beach. Seeking GWF, responsible, mature, sweet, and honest, for companionship, possibly more. Tucker ☎7042

SOON 2B DOCTOR
GWF, 43, attractive, funny, seeks femme for friendship/possibly more. Not into bar scene, smoking, drinking, drugs. Great sense of humor, loves cuddling. Down-to-earth, outgoing. Love pets, be allergic to cats. Suwanee ☎6966

I'M AVAILABLE
SF, 5'2", very cute soft stud, loves traveling, movies, plays, theater, having a good time. Looking for a woman who is adventurous for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6954

BROWN SUGAR
41, black female, smoker, College Park, very romantic, soft butch. Where are you ladies? Race unimportant. ☎6719

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT..
GBF, in search of a mate, someone honest, sincere and available to date, with a charming spirit, integrity and personality. No drama or issues and secure in her sexuality. Decatur ☎7013

FLORIDA WOMAN SEEKS LOVE
SWPF, 50s, enjoys beaches, mountains, outdoors, candlelight dinners, quiet evenings at home. Seeks same, must be feminine and attractive. Clearwater ☎6953

BRIGHT EYES
Honest GF, late-30s, very social, enjoys movies, dining out, family, travel and more. Seeking sincere, sweet, kind, feminine GF, for friendship, possible LTR. Smithville ☎6938

AFRICAN/AMERICAN QUEEN
Feminine GBF, 48, seeks aggressive, 100% lesbian, who is sincere, for dating first. Let's explore our horizons. No Bi's or Femmes please. Smyrna ☎6900

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Very attractive, feminine, emotionally, spiritually/financially stable, fit GWPF, 30s, 125lbs, 5'4", honest, kind, seeks SWF for friendship, more. Enjoys golf, gym, dogs, movies, dinner, travel. Northwest Atlanta. D/D-free a must! Dallas ☎7069

WANTING SOMEONE REAL
Female, 23, 5'1", 110lbs, layered auburn hair, in nursing school, loves all things sports and all things artistic. Seeking a woman with similar tastes. Forest Park ☎6910

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GBF, 50, seeks attractive GBF, 40-50, N/Drugs, with a good sense of humor, intelligent, for friendship and dating. Greensboro ☎7071

Just Friends

FRIENDLY FOLK SEEK SAME
GM couple, 50s, is seeking other gays and/or couples in NW GA area for friendship and social activities. Plainville ☎6965

MULTI-LINGUAL TUTELAGE
GWM, 52, good looks, body, health, characters. Bright, personable. Seeking similar, GWF's with whom to practice French, good working relationship necessary. Serious inquires only. No men. Decatur ☎7107

Bisexuals

BEAR MATE WANTED
GWM, 55, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear bottom, seeks bigger bear top for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Woodstock ☎6597

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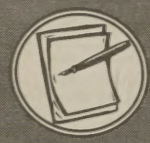
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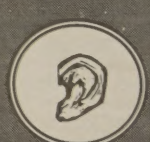

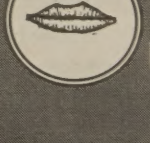
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Occasions

Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge in its classifieds section. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions are verified by telephone.

birthdays

"TLR — Happy 45th birthday on Friday, Dec. 6. — JDH"

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together / Atlanta members Marion J. on Dec. 7 and Jim S. on Dec. 8.

Happy birthday to Southern Voice staff writer Jennifer J. Smith on Dec. 12.

Georgia Equality's volunteers, board members and staff wish a happy birthday to executive director Allen Thornell on Dec. 8 and board chair Chris Carroll on Dec. 13.

AIDS & HIV Services & Education

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625 or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

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NAESM

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*Free HIV Counseling & Testing - Test uses NO NEEDLES, is quick, easy & confidential. Testing hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00a.m.-5:30p.m.,(other days & hours by appointment). Call 404-753-3550. No appt. necessary. All are welcomed.

*Speaking In The Black - Discussion Group for Gay Men of Color who are HIV+ or have AIDS. Open forum discusses challenges of living with HIV/AIDS. Peer led, safe & confidential. Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more info: 404-753-3550.

*Volunteer Services - Volunteer with NAESM. For more info: Call 404-753-2900.

FREE HIV TESTING - Confidential HIV testing every Wednesday from 5:30-7pm @ YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. in Decatur. 404-378-6620 for more information, or www.youthpride.org

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 Dekalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

Announcements

St. Michael the Defender

A Parish of the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America. Sunday Mass 10:00am at 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Across from the Civic Center, free parking! Father Patrick W. Batuyong, Pastor.

www.stmichaelatlanta.org

"ALL ARE WELCOME" 404-627-7212.

A COMMON BOND is a social group for gay, former &/or current JW's, offering friendship and an understanding environment. For details about the next gathering of the Atlanta Chapter - 770-493-3188 or e-mail: micek38@yahoo.com

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit - offers free legal services to low-income persons living with life-threatening illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer and ALS; with a wide range of legal problems - employment discrimination, public benefits, debt relief, insurance, access to health care, housing, family issues, and simple wills and advance directives. Income guidelines do apply. We DO NOT offer legal services for criminal matters. Please call 404-614-3969 for more information.

WEST GEORGIA GAY & LESBIAN

RESOURCE CENTER- A cyberspace resource center serving the W.Ga. gay & lesbian community. Includes a bulletin board, chat room, personals, and local, regional and national resource links. http://www.truthtree.com/westga

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North Buckhead - GWM seeks roommate, responsible, clean, nonsmoker, fitness-minded, 3BR/2BA home, hot tub, private patio, share bath. $450/mo. Ron 404-788-0572.

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MIDTOWN AREA - PGWM seeks Roommate! Locate Apartment for Occupancy at End of February. Have Two Cats. Call Kevin 404-422-6466 or 404-728-9127.

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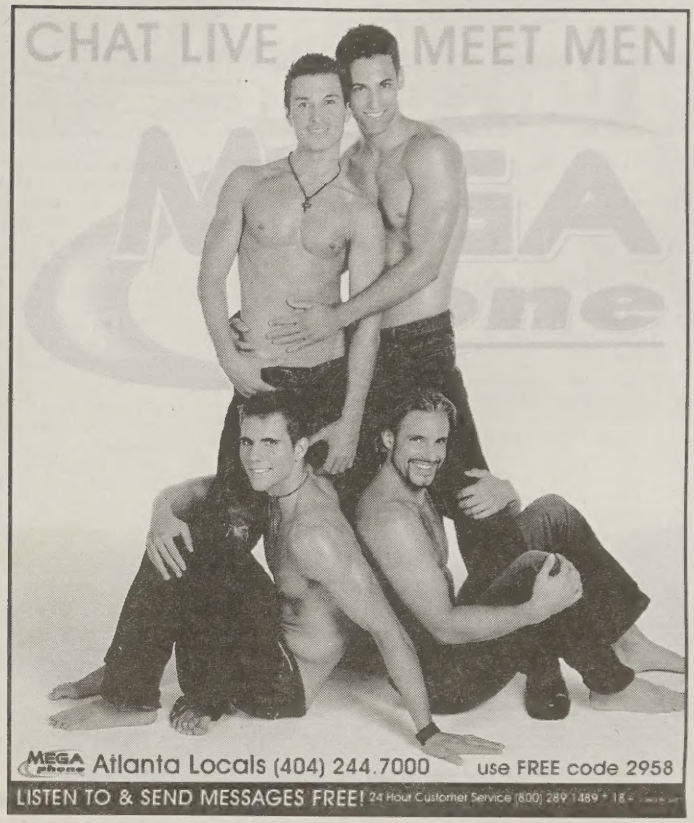
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The positions require daytime availability (between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.), but hours are flexible within that time period. A minimum commitment of 10 hours per week is needed. The internships are unpaid, but supervision for course credit is possible.

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